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American Red Cross Nurse Zulema Vega, right, prepares Thom Pelk, transportation manager at Crossroads Depot Division 2, for a blood donation.



PHOTO: BILL HEARD

## Employees Give Blood in Memory of Metrolink Accident Victims

(Feb. 2, 2005) Metro employees responded wholeheartedly, Tuesday, to the need for blood donations following last week's tragic Metrolink accident.

A total of 29 employees initially signed up to give blood. By the end of the day, however, 53 employees had responded and a total of 39 were able to make donations.

"Our hearts go out to the victims and the families of those injured or killed...", CEO Roger Snoble wrote in a Jan. 27 memo to employees. He noted that the American Red Cross had reported a "significant drain on the blood supply due to the number of injured being treated at local hospitals."

Annie Murray, donor recruiter for the Red Cross, said 60 units of blood were rushed to Glendale Memorial Hospital immediately following the accident. Four other hospitals were on the standby list for blood, if needed.

## Blood supply critically short

At the moment, she said, the Los Angeles chapter of the Red Cross has less than a half-day's blood supply on hand and can't fill its contracts with hospitals. A three days' supply is the optimum, she said.

The Red Cross issued an urgent appeal for blood following the Metrolink accident. O negative – the universal blood type – is especially needed because it can be given when a patient's blood type is not known and the patient needs an immediate transfusion.

"When tragedies happen and the blood supply gets taken quickly," said Nurse Sharri Genens, who was in charge of the Metro blood drive, "we need to get blood back on the shelves so we can fill our regular hospital orders."

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