

## **Stidham, CDF help Red Cross**

Updated: Thursday, August 29, 2002 10:00 PM PDT

YREKA -- On most days it's the American Red Cross staff who provide aid and support to the residents of Siskiyou County. But in a reversal of roles this week, the local office of the California Department of Forestry, along with Larry Stidham, owner of Stidham Trucking Inc. in Yreka, came to the aid of the Siskiyou County Chapter of the American Red Cross Disaster Services team.

"It is imperative that we have access to our disaster supplies 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said local Red Cross chapter executive director Dianne Mabrey. "A big portion of those supplies, especially cots and blankets, have been stored in the National Guard Armory at the fairgrounds, and it was becoming increasingly more difficult to gain access when needed."

The chapter's board had approved purchasing two steel 20-foot storage containers several months ago, but did not have an accessible place to keep them, until CDF stepped in and offered space at its yard on Fairlane Road.

That left getting the containers, purchased from a company in Portland, Ore., to Yreka. Shipping the two containers, weighing in at about 5,000 pounds each, would cost the chapter more than \$500, funds that could be better utilized providing disaster services, Mabrey said.

Hearing of the chapter's need, Stidham offered the use of a truck off-loading a delivery in Seattle. On Monday, Stidham's truck proceeded to the location in Portland while the containers were being readied for transport.

The American Red Cross expects to begin moving disaster supplies out of the armory early next week into the new containers.

"With the invaluable help provided by CDF and Larry Stidham, Siskiyou County's American Red Cross chapter will be one step closer to their goal to be able to set up disaster shelters and provide disaster services within an hour of notice," Mabrey said.