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[givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org)

## Police, Fire, Sheriff and State Patrol Departments “Bare Arms” in Battle of Badges

*Blood donors are best weapon in maintaining stable blood supply*

**OMAHA, Neb.** (May 22, 2009) – Around the Omaha metro men and women in uniform help save lives every day, but this month they are joining forces to save lives in one more way. From June 3 to June 10, local law enforcement and fire departments will battle it out to recruit the most blood donors during the American Red Cross Battle of the Badges competition with NEWSRadio 1110 KFAB.

“Our first responders see firsthand the need for blood at the scene of emergencies, accidents and disasters in our community,” said Tricia Rubens, CEO of the local Red Cross Blood Services Region. “During Battle of the Badges, our law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel remind us that you don’t have to have a badge to be a hero. By donating blood, everyone can help save lives.”

During this friendly competition, these first responders will recruit blood donors from their ranks, families and neighborhoods as well as enlist the community to “bare arms” on behalf of either law enforcement or fire.

First responders helping to gain support for law enforcement or fire are Omaha, Bellevue, Council Bluffs, Papillion, LaVista and Ralston Police and Fire Departments, the Douglas, Pottawattamie and Sarpy County Sheriffs Departments and the Nebraska State Patrol.

All presenting donors on June 3 and 4 earn double points for the department of their choice. At the end of the competition, the department that had the most donors present on its behalf wins bragging rights in the community.

### **Battle of the Badges Blood Donation Opportunities**

- Wednesday, June 3, 2009 from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Omaha Firefighters Union Hall, 60<sup>th</sup> & Grover, Omaha
- Thursday, June 4, 2009 from 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Omaha Police Union Hall, 132<sup>nd</sup> & Cryer, Omaha
- All blood drives from June 3 to 10 in the metro are participating in Battle of the Badges. To find the nearest blood donation opportunity or make an appointment, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org).

In addition to celebrating our local Police and Fire Departments, this special event will help ensure that the Red Cross can meet the needs of patients over the summer months. For many of us, summer means family trips, holidays and no school. But the need for blood is like the need for first responders – it is constant and doesn’t take a vacation.

The Red Cross especially encourages those with an O negative blood type to donate to help maintain the blood inventory.

A blood donor card or driver’s license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Eligible donors must be at least 17 years old, or 16 years old with a signed Red Cross parental/guardian consent form where state permits, must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health.

**The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.™**

**About the American Red Cross**

Governed by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities, the American Red Cross is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States. While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it. In addition to providing nearly half of the nation's blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

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