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Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 97, 25 Oyster Creek Road
Swan Quarter, NC 27885

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL LOCAL MEDIA:

The Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department (SQVFD) recently announced that the Northeastern NC Chapter of the American Red Cross will be holding an American Red Cross (ARC) blood drive at the station on Saturday, May 4, from 11 am until 3 pm. Following that announcement, it was brought to the SQVFD's attention that there is another organization who has recently started conducting similar operations in the area..

Fire Chief Jeffrey Stotesberry spoke with representatives of both the ARC and The Blood Connection (TBC), in an attempt to understand how these changes could affect Hyde County.

The Blood Connection (TBC) of Greenville, SC, recently became the primary blood supplier to all of Vidant Health hospitals and is expanding its donor collection opportunities in eastern North Carolina. All testing and processing of blood or plasma donated to them takes place at their Piedmont, SC biologic process center. However, the ARC continues to provide blood for other eastern North Carolina hospitals and trauma unit needs.

Stotesberry has indicated that "we do not anticipate that our long-term relationship with the American Red Cross will change in anyway. Our department has hosted American Red Cross blood drives for many years and will continue to do so."

Stotesberry was quick to point out that the ARC has served Hyde County in countless different capacities throughout the years, "In addition to the blood drives we have sponsored, we have worked side-by-side with the ARC following many hurricanes that have had a direct impact on the county. ARC volunteers have gone door-to-door helping us access losses and damages. The ARC has served hundreds of meals at our station and manned post-incident shelters. They keep our Hyde County ARC sheltie (small mobile van filled with cots, generator, and other supplies) stocked. They have also been a help to many of our citizens who have experienced the loss of homes and property following fires."

"The ARC has proven they are not selective about who they help. Their work is nationwide - even global - and they have a proven track record of responding wherever they are needed. Their expertise in multiple causality incidents is renown. If there is a mass need for blood they often respond on site. We appreciate their assistance and know that they will respond when needed and that they play a vital role in our county's recovery efforts as well as in other eastern North Carolina areas," he elaborated.

Blood donors in Hyde County are encouraged to participate in the May 4 blood drive. Regardless of your blood type, you are encouraged to "Give the Gift of Life;" however, type O blood is urgently needed. Type O blood can be used in an emergency situation to save a life, regardless of the recipient's blood type. For more information visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS.

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