

NEWS RELEASE



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UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE VOLUNTEERS TEACH OTHERS TO SAVE A LIFE

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla. (March 14) -- In the event of a medical emergency every minute is precious and having emergency training could mean the difference between life and death. USA volunteers are making a commitment to not only become properly trained in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) but are becoming certified CPR instructors for the American Red Cross, Space Coast Chapter, in Rockledge, Florida.

“By learning CPR you can maybe help one person, but by teaching it we are helping lots of people,” said Dennis Wesbecker, USA volunteer and CPR instructor. “In addition, because of teaching CPR every month for the past year, I am more confident that I will respond appropriately in an emergency situation.”

The volunteers teach classes that provide the knowledge and skills necessary to offer care for breathing emergencies, to perform CPR and to use an automated external defibrillator for victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

“USA volunteers give us the opportunity to offer many classes to various organizations which is a huge help to the Space Coast American Red Cross,” said Jason Ferrell, Director of Health and Safety, American Red Cross, Space Coast Chapter of Brevard. “If we did not have volunteers then we would have to pay instructors, which is a big expense for a non-profit organization.”

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“To help someone pass the exam and be able to demonstrate the skills is my biggest challenge and my biggest achievement.” Melinda Hester, USA volunteer and CPR instructor said. “With someone’s life at stake, I want to make sure the person I’m certifying can perform the necessary skills to save a life.”

Hester had to put classroom skills to the test on three separate occasions.

“I’ve had to perform First Aid when a woman was ill at the mall and twice at two separate automobile accidents until the paramedics arrived.”

Both Hester and Wesbecker maintain that teaching this course gives them the practice necessary to respond by instinct and confidence should an emergency situation occur.

United Space Alliance is a leader in space operations offering extensive experience in space launch and recovery operations; mission planning and control; flight hardware processing; space flight training; on-orbit assembly, payload deployment and servicing; rendezvous/proximity operations and docking; large-scale integration and sustaining engineering. USA serves as NASA's prime contractor for the Space Shuttle and provides operations services for the International Space Station. United Space Alliance employs more than 10,000 people in Texas, Florida, and Alabama

CAPTION:

USA employees volunteered to become certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructors for the American Red Cross, Space Coast Chapter of Brevard in Melbourne, FL. Collectively USA volunteers have taught more than 200 classes in the past year, teaching others the knowledge and skills necessary to offer care for breathing emergencies, to perform CPR and to use an automated external defibrillator for victims of sudden cardiac arrest. From the left: CPR instructor Dennis Wesbecker, James Rooker, Chris Mathiesen, Bill Wendorff, Lisa Gorichky and Melinda Hester, also a CPR instructor demonstrating on “Little Anne.”

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