



Blood Centers of the Pacific
a member of the Blood Systems Family

PRESS RELEASE

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AREA HOSPITALS URGED TO CANCEL SOME SURGERIES

*Storms Hamper Blood Collections; Blood Bank Urges Hospitals to Postpone Surgeries
Requiring Type O Negative Blood*

SAN FRANCISCO – Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP), the region’s blood bank, is urging hospitals to reschedule surgeries requiring significant amounts of Type O negative blood due to a critical shortage of that type. An already low blood supply was exacerbated today by the region’s storms – with blood drive cancellations, flooding at donation locations and the inability to receive much-needed blood imports from outside the region.

Blood Centers of the Pacific is urging all area residents who have Type O negative blood to donate blood as soon as possible.

A shortage of Type O negative blood is especially dangerous because it is the “universal donor type,” meaning it can be given to anyone in an emergency. **As of this afternoon BCP has just three pints of Type O negative blood.**

BCP began “shorting” its hospitals of the precious blood type on Wednesday and sent notifications warning that the blood center may not be able to support surgeries and treatments requiring significant amounts of Type O negative blood. Today, BCP was forced to take the unusual step of urging hospitals to postpone some surgeries.

BCP regularly imports blood from out-of-state to meet demand, but bad weather across the nation has hampered those efforts. Heavy usage due to several trauma cases and low donation rates during the holidays contributed to the dire situation.

BCP is a community-based, nonprofit organization that supplies volunteer blood donations to 40 hospitals throughout Northern California. **To donate blood, call 888-393-GIVE or visit www.bloodcenters.org.**

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