

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 18 December 2017

Contact: John Inger | 425-763-9940 | [John@bloodworks.org](mailto:John@bloodworks.org)

### **Train derailment results in urgent plea for donors**

*Emergency making huge demands on community supply*

**Seattle, WA** – Bloodworks has issued an urgent appeal for donors today following the derailment of an Amtrak passenger train between Tacoma and Olympia that is making major demands on the community blood supply. Nearly 60 people have been taken to local hospitals, though the exact number of casualties and injuries is unknown at this time.

"Bloodworks has issued more than 150 units of blood to respond to emergency orders from hospitals treating people injured in the tragedy, said James P. Aulackon, MD, president and CEO. "Many of the causalities have been taken to South Sound hospitals – including St. Joseph's Medical Center, St. Peter's Hospital and Madigan Army Medical Center – who all depend on Bloodworks to meet their patient needs."

Aulackon noted that supplies for some blood types are at critical levels – just one or two day supply, compared to a normal four-day inventory. "We need to replenish our supplies to meet the needs of injured people today, and in the days ahead, as well as to meet normal needs," he said.

There is a special need for O type blood. All plasma and platelets but all donors are welcome.

"Having blood already in the shelves is essential when unforeseeable emergencies or tragedies happen," Aulackon said. "To avoid a crisis for the local blood supply, we're urging donors who have not donated recently to schedule an appointment as soon as they can at a donor center or mobile drive."

Donor centers are open for extended hours this month to make it even more convenient. Information can be found at [Bloodworks.org](http://Bloodworks.org). Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are also welcome. Appointments can be made online at [schedule.bloodworks.org](http://schedule.bloodworks.org) or by calling 1-800-590-7988.