



Important Consumer Numbers and Resources

In the days before and after a hurricane, consumers must be more aware of people who want to rip them off. Here are some useful numbers and resources.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Registration

800 621-FEMA (3362)

tdd: 800 462-7585

State of Florida Emergency Information 24-hour hotline (FEIL)

800 342-3557

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Hotline

800 HELP-FLA (435-7352)

¡Español! 800 FL-AYUDA (352-9832)

State Volunteer and Donations Hotline

800 FL-HELP1 (354-3571)

Elder Affairs

800 96-ELDER (963-5337)

Florida Department of Financial Services Insurance Claim Hotline

800 22-STORM (227-8676)

Agency for Workforce Innovation Unemployment Claims Emergency Hotline

800 204-2418

Salvation Army Donation Helpline

800 SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

GIVING TO CHARITY

Beware of people soliciting contributions on behalf of victims of a natural disaster. Ask the name of the organization they represent. Do not judge an organization solely on a name that sounds impressive.

To check on a group's registration or complaint history, call the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 800 HELP-FLA (435-7352).

Beware of pressure tactics. Reputable organizations won't pressure you to give today; they will gladly accept your gift at a future date.

Not all organizations soliciting are true charities eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. Ask if donations are tax deductible. Verify the information with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Never give cash. Contribute by check payable to the organization, never to an individual's name.