



## How to Help in the Wake of Hurricane Harvey and Irma

It's natural to want to help after a disaster like Hurricane Harvey or Hurricane Irma. Whether you want to donate cash, goods, or services to assist in the hurricane response, make sure you do so responsibly, and avoid scams. Here are some guidelines:

- **Cash is the most efficient method of donating.** Cash offers voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining needed resources and pumps money into the local economy to help businesses recover.
- **Donate through a trusted organization.** Find trusted national and state level agencies to donate or volunteer from the [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#).
- **Affiliate with existing non-profit organizations before coming to the disaster area.** Contact and affiliate with an established organization to ensure that you receive training to respond in the most effective way.
- **Be safe.** Do not self-deploy. Wait until it is safe to travel to volunteer sites and authorities identify opportunities to help.
- **Be patient.** There will be volunteer needs for many months, often years, after the disaster.

If you need help in determining who to give to, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster website has a list of [major non-profits active in disaster work](#) or [contact your FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison](#) for guidance.

