

# FRAUD ALERT

## Fake Charities



**Common Victims:** Anyone  
**Method of Contact:** Telephone / Email / Mail

Criminals may pretend to solicit money to help the victims of a natural disaster. The made-up name of their group will often be nearly identical to a well-known, reputable charity.

- Check out any charitable group you are unfamiliar with. There are non-profit watchdog groups that evaluate charitable organizations on their performance in a number of areas. Two respected organizations to contact are [Charity Navigator](#) and [Wise Giving Alliance](#).
- Be wary of out-of-state organizations, especially if their address is a post office box.
- Never make cash donations and always make checks payable to the organization and not the individual soliciting the donation.
- Be careful when responding to charitable solicitations that come through the mail.
- Be alert to potential email scams.