

Fraud Alert!

August 31, 2005

GIVE WISELY FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

We have just received word that the Denver Police have arrested a man for impersonating a Red Cross volunteer and fraudulently collecting donations for the hurricane relief effort. He won't be the last. With every major disaster, Americans open their hearts and pocketbooks, and some unscrupulous people try to profit from our trust and generosity. **Don't become a victim of charity fraud!**

- ✓ Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion, but short on describing what the charity will do to address the needs of victims and their families.
- ✓ Most relief charities prefer financial contributions rather than donated goods so they can purchase needed items near the disaster relief site(s).
- ✓ Do not give cash. Make a check or money order out to the name of the charitable organization, not to an individual collecting the donation.
- ✓ If you contribute online, beware of any email requesting a donation. Some phony charities imitate the name and style of well-known organizations to confuse people.
- ✓ Do not give your credit card number or other personal information to a telephone solicitor or in response to an email solicitation.
- ✓ Before making a donation, call the organization on whose behalf funds are being raised to verify these are legitimate solicitations.

NEED HELP FINDING A CHARITY?

Call the CASE Assistance Line,
720-874-8547

or go to www.da18.org and click on "Fraud Alerts"

