*Donations, Solicitations and Offers*

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Major disasters stir feelings of compassion in people to reach out and help in some way. People want to help in the cleanup and others want to donate money, purchasing cards, clothing, blankets and quilts, food, etc. Within the disaster zone, conditions may be quite chaotic. The management of donations becomes a real challenge. The following guidelines should be followed.

* Assistance may be requested through priesthood channels and the area welfare manager after:
	+ local priesthood leaders assess the status of members, Church meetinghouses and the community
	+ local priesthood leaders determine needs that cannot be met with local resources.
* General solicitations directed to Church members or the public for donations and other types of help should not be made without the approval of the assigned Area Seventy.
* In-kind relief supplies should be preapproved by the assigned Area Seventy in the type of assistance needed, if any, timing and costs, including freight.
* Church leaders/members from outside the disaster zone may help in two ways: 1) by participating in the cleanup effort under priesthood direction, or 2) contributing to the Church Humanitarian Fund that will be used on needs specified by local priesthood leaders for the relief effort.
* Cleanup volunteers should arrive self-contained.
* All cash donations should be made through the Humanitarian Fund. Expenses for humanitarian assistance that surpass the stake president spending limit should be preapproved through the area welfare manager by the Presiding Bishopric.

These guidelines will help with disaster response by alleviating unnecessary warehousing of food and materials, payment for unapproved freight, and safeguarding, distribution and use of assorted purchasing cards. It will free up emergency staff to provide, initially, life sustaining services, and later on recovery services as cleanup efforts are conducted.