



**NJVOAD**

**New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster**

### **DISASTER RESPONSE TALKING POINTS**

New Jersey communities and residents are grateful for the support and assistance of our neighbors, near and far. Please know that while we appreciate everyone's desire to help, we ask that you demonstrate your support in one of the following ways:

❖ **Donate money:**

- Direct financial support to voluntary organizations responding to disaster is the best way to assist;
- Cash allows disaster response organizations to purchase *exactly* what is needed *when* it is needed;
- To make a financial gift to the organization of your choice, visit [HELPNJNOW.ORG](http://HELPNJNOW.ORG) for a listing of reputable organizations accepting online donations.

❖ **Donate Needed Items:**

- Listen carefully to public service announcements for a list of needed items or search on [HELPNJNOW.ORG](http://HELPNJNOW.ORG) for a listing of needed items;
- Donate **ONLY** those things that are requested by officials and bring them to the official designated collection centers;
- Do **NOT** donate used clothing as most shelters and other facilities will not accept these items due to hygienic concerns;
- Items not requested may go to waste and interfere with response efforts as time is taken away from the immediate needs of helping survivors to manage, sort and store donated items.

❖ **Volunteer with an Organization:**

- Organizational or group volunteers with training are needed most in the days and weeks after a disaster strikes;
- Do not go to the scene of a disaster to offer help - unexpected volunteers interfere with response efforts and may put individuals at risk in unsafe areas;
- If you are not affiliated with a voluntary organization and want to volunteer, register on [HELPNJNOW.ORG](http://HELPNJNOW.ORG).

❖ **Other ways to help:**

- Hold a yard sale or put on a fund-raising event and donate money raised to a non-profit organization responding to this disaster;
- If you have already collected goods but can't find an agency that needs them, donate these items to a local charitable agency.
- Get trained to assist in future disasters – check out resources on [HELPNJNOW.ORG](http://HELPNJNOW.ORG).

***Please be patient as it may take days or weeks after a disaster strikes to sort out the true needs of the community.***