

### **FTC Advice for Helping Hurricane Harvey Victims**

If you're looking for a way to give, be cautious about charity scams. Do some research to ensure that your donation will go to a reputable organization that will use the money as promised:

- Donate to charities you know and trust with a proven track record with dealing with disasters.
- Be alert for charities that seem to have sprung up overnight in connection with current events. Check out the charity with the [Better Business Bureau's \(BBB\) Wise Giving Alliance](#), [Charity Navigator](#), [Charity Watch](#), or [GuideStar](#).
- Designate the disaster so you can ensure your funds are going to disaster relief, rather than a general fund.
- Never click on links or open attachments in e-mails unless you know who sent it. You could unknowingly install [malware](#) on your computer.
- Don't assume that charity messages posted on social media are legitimate. Research the organization yourself.
- When texting to donate, confirm the number with the source before you donate. The charge will show up on your mobile phone bill, but donations are not immediate.
- Find out if the charity or fundraiser must be registered in your state by contacting the [National Association of State Charity Officials](#). If they should be registered, but they're not, consider donating through another charity.