



COMMUNITY ALERT!!!



SAFETY TIPS FOR MAKING DONATIONS TO THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

The New York State Consumer Protection Board (CPB) is warning consumers to beware of unfamiliar organizations soliciting funds for victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. Scammers will seek to gain access to credit card numbers and bank accounts in order to commit identity theft. Unscrupulous charities may also seek donations, even though only a small percentage of the money- - if any - - will actually be used to help earthquake victims.

- Avoid giving cash. Make checks out to the charity not to an individual.
- Beware of callers who want your money right away or use high-pressured tactics. No legitimate organization will insist that you donate immediately.
- Guard against fake solicitations. Be wary of unsolicited mailings, phone calls and e-mails requesting donations. Don't click on any links contained in these emails, as you may be directed to a fake website made to look like a legitimate organization's official site.
- Don't disclose personal or financial information. Never give your Social Security number, credit card or debit card number or other personal identifying information in response to an unsolicited charitable request, especially over the phone.

For more information on scam prevention and to view scam alerts, visit:

- **www.nysconsumer.gov**
- **www.ny.gov/governor/index.html**
- **or call 311**