



## **DONATIONS IN TIMES OF DISASTER**

When making donations after a disaster, the Commission encourages financial contributions to the voluntary relief organizations responding to the disaster rather than donated product because: (1) cash donations help to avoid the labor and expenses of sorting, packing, transporting and distributing donated goods; (2) voluntary relief agencies responding to the disaster can use cash to more quickly meet the specific needs of the survivors; and (3) the local economy can recover more quickly if relief supplies are purchased in the impacted community.

### Donated Goods

After most disasters, many people are anxious to help the survivors by donating supplies. When survivors receive these needed supplies it is often their first step as they attempt to re-gain normalcy in their lives. The Commission provides a message to the media that describes the type of supplies that are most needed. Individuals, groups, and businesses are encouraged to donate supplies on the list.

Some people organize collection sites (donated goods drives) in local communities. These drives can be important activities and are appreciated. As with all donated goods, the Commission's goal is to distribute collected supplies in an efficient and effective manner to those who need them. To help us meet that goal, we offer the following helpful hints about donated goods drives:

- Collect only items on the state's publicized list of needed supplies
- Sort like items together (for example, cans of corn together in one box, cans of peaches together in one box, etc.)
- Limit the weight of the boxes to 30 pounds
- Tape boxes shut securely
- Label the boxes on at least two sides
- Include a description of the contents on the label
- Boxes should be on pallets and shrink-wrapped, if at all possible
- Provide an written inventory of the boxes
- Be prepared to provide transportation to the state's Donated Goods Warehouse
- Coordinate delivery with Warehouse manager

### Donations of Clothing

Although well intentioned, unsolicited donations of clothing from individuals or groups have hidden costs and create problems that impede relief efforts. For this reason, sending or delivering used clothing to areas impacted by disaster is not recommended.