



# Fraud Alert!

**C.A.S.E.**

*Churches Against  
Senior Exploitation*

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## Disasters bring out the best and the worst Beware of charity scams, double check legitimacy before donating

Colorado has already been scorched by wildfires. Previously burned areas are at risk for flooding. Hurricane season is underway. And tornadoes know no boundaries.

Disasters bring out the best in many people who want to help and the worst in some who see it as prime time to take advantage of generous hearts. With every natural disaster come scams and fake charities.

So how do you know where to send your donations? Follow these guidelines.

- Give to reputable/known charities with a proven record such as the American Red Cross.
- Most legitimate charities use .org instead of .com.
- Check out charities through a third-party before giving.
- Beware of emails, door-to-door and mail pitches soliciting donations.
- Beware of organizations with names that are similar to but slightly different from reputable charities.
- Avoid giving cash and instead donate with a credit card, debit card or check written out to an organization, NOT to an individual.
- Never give out personal and financial information.
- Check out [helpcoloradonow.org](http://helpcoloradonow.org) for legitimate ways to help recent fire victims.

And if you do fall victim to a scam, call law enforcement as soon as possible to report the incident.



Immediately report to your local police agency if you think you are a victim of crime.  
To view other Fraud Alerts, go to [www.weldda.com](http://www.weldda.com).