### Emergency Disaster Donations FAQs

1. **Everyone wants to be helpful and pitch in when a disaster strikes but what is the best way to help in the event of a disaster?**
   The best way to assist in the recovery process of a disaster is to make a financial contribution to trusted organizations. That way assisting organizations can purchase exactly what is needed when it is needed. Needs can vary depending on the individual, type, and magnitude of a disaster.

2. **Where can I make a financial contribution when a disaster strikes in Kern County?**
   Monetary donations can be made to the United Way of Kern County at www.uwkern.org or the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.

3. **Should I donate clothes, materials, or food when a disaster strikes?**
   It’s best to avoid donating any material items unless county officials request them. We have learned from past disasters both locally and nationally that most donated items are not needed and can pile up and create additional health and safety concerns.

4. **Can I host a donation drive to help disaster victims?**
   Used items are not needed and even new items when not needed or received in large quantities can hinder the disaster relief operations. The county may refuse your donations if they’re not needed.

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**When disasters occur everyone wants to help, but how we help is what really determines our success!**