

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

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Orange County Encourages Residents to Support Relief Efforts for Japan's Earthquake, Tsunami Victims

Goshen – “My thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Japan during this time of great need,” said Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana. “Not only were they hit by one of the most major earthquakes on record, but the resulting tsunami and explosions have significantly amplified the devastating effects. On behalf of the people of Orange County, I send both sympathy and hope to the residents of the grief-stricken area,” added Mr. Diana.

With a mission to help people prepare for and respond to disasters (as they did just last week for flood victims in Port Jervis), the American Red Cross acted quickly following the earthquake in Japan to support emergency response efforts and encourage donations to aid with relief efforts. Anyone looking to donate to the American Red Cross can do so effortlessly by texting “\$10” to the number 90999, and the donation will be charged to your phone bill.

United Way of Orange County recommends people interested in donating to relief efforts visit the website www.interaction.org for a list of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are working on the ground in Japan to support relief efforts.

Orange County Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Charles Mitchell reminds people to use caution when donating to charities following a major disaster. “Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous people out there who will prey upon others’ desire to help following a crisis,” said Mitchell. “Don’t fall for a scam,” cautioned Mitchell. “Take the time to know who you are giving to. Be wary of telemarketers and email solicitations, and make sure you know who that text donation is really going to. Also watch out for bogus charities and websites; established organizations are likely your best bet to ensure your donation will be used the way you intend it,” added Mitchell.

Many international relief organizations have also put out reminders that unsolicited donations of product, while well-intended, are not recommended as they often have hidden costs and complications for use in recovery efforts.

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