

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DON'T FALL VICTIM TO COVID-19 FINANCIAL SCAMS**

CONCORD, N.H. – New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer L. Harper and New Hampshire Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald warn residents that local, state and federal disaster workers will never solicit or accept money for disaster services.

There have been reports that scammers are pretending to be from the government, contacting people by robocalls, text messages, emails and other outreach. These scammers falsely claim that they can get people financial help during the COVID-19 pandemic, and then ask for money or personal information, like social security, bank account or credit card numbers. These are scams.

Similarly, scammers are pretending to be from the government and contacting people offering federal COVID-19 essential worker hazard pay. There is no federal hazard pay assistance and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is not making direct payments to individuals. These are also scams.

Never trust anyone who offers financial help and then asks for money or your personal information. New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management and FEMA never charge for disaster assistance.

Director Harper and Attorney General MacDonald offer the following advice to avoid falling victim to these scams:

- Never send money or provide your personal information to someone you don't know.
- If you receive an email or text message asking for money or personal information, delete it immediately without engaging with the sender. Never open links contained in those emails, as that might infect your computer with a virus.
- If you receive a phone call asking for money or your personal information in exchange for disaster assistance, you should hang up immediately.

If you, or someone you know, has fallen victim to this scam, report it to your local police department and the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau of the Attorney General's Office. You can file a complaint at: <https://www.doj.nh.gov/consumer/complaints/index.htm> or by calling the Consumer Hotline at (603) 271-3641.

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