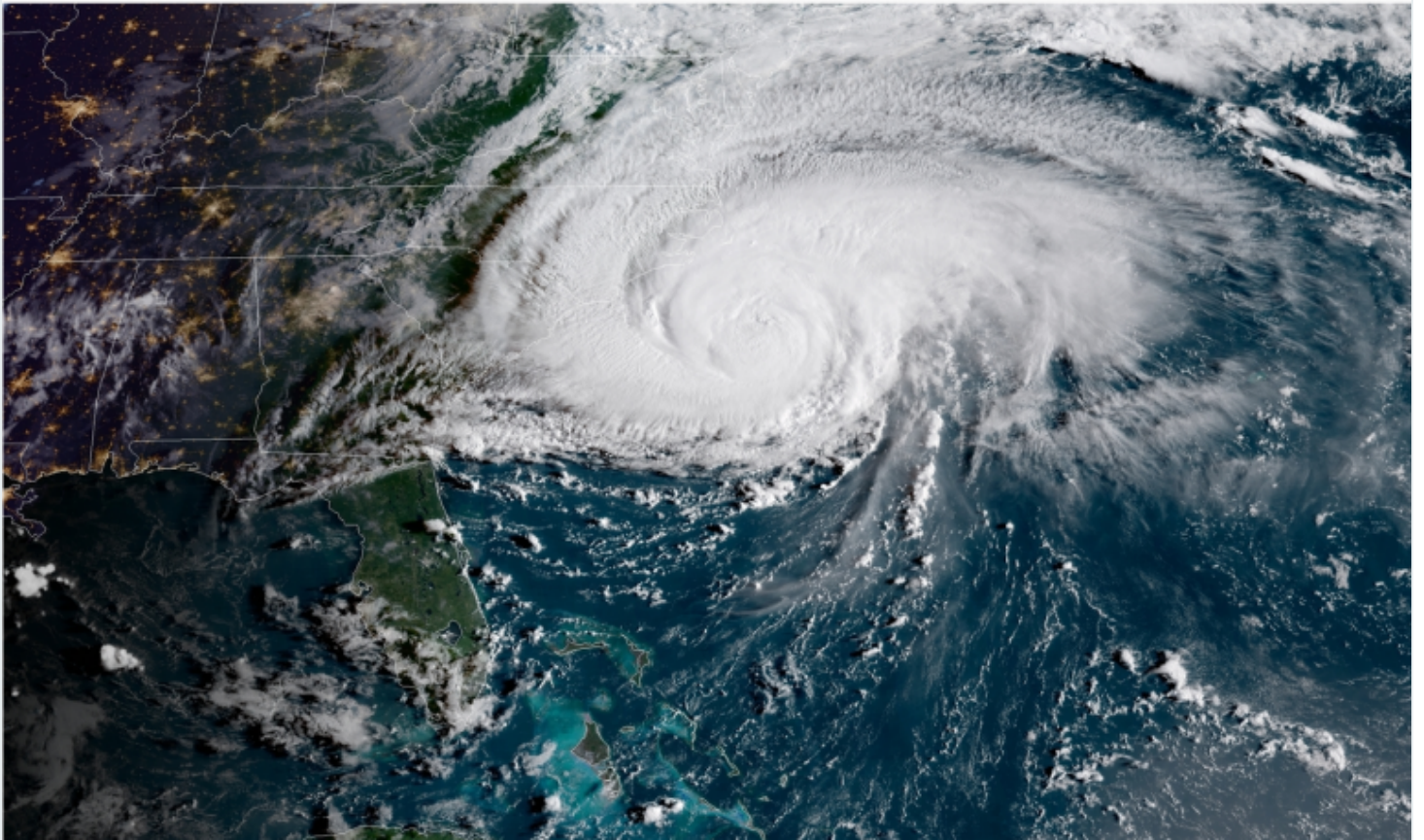


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taxpayers who want to help victims of major disasters.

Sep. 19, 2018



In the wake of Hurricane Florence, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding taxpayers that criminals and scammers try to take advantage of the generosity of taxpayers who want to help victims of major disasters.

Fraudulent schemes normally start with unsolicited contact by telephone, social media, e-mail or in-person using a variety of tactics.

- Some impersonate charities to get money or private information from well-intentioned taxpayers.

- Bogus websites use names similar to legitimate charities to trick people to send

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tax relief, can be found on the disaster relief page on IRS.gov. In the case of a federally declared disaster, affected taxpayers may also call the IRS Special Services Help Line, 866-562-5227, with disaster-related tax questions. Details on available relief can be found on the [disaster relief](#) page on IRS.gov.

Donate to real charities

To help taxpayers donate to legitimate charities, the IRS website, IRS.gov, has a search feature, [Tax Exempt Organization Search](#), that helps users find or verify qualified charities. Donations to these charities may be tax-deductible.

- Contribute by check or credit card. Never give or send cash.
- Don't give out personal financial information — such as Social Security numbers or credit card and bank account numbers and passwords — to anyone who solicits a contribution.

Taxpayers suspecting fraud by email should visit IRS.gov and search for the keywords “[Report Phishing](#).” More information about tax scams and schemes may be found at IRS.gov using the keywords “scams and schemes.”

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