HELP THOSE IN NEED

After a community recovers from disaster, there is often a desire to give back. At the same time, charities such as the National Emergency Fund need to replenish their coffers. This is a good time to consider a fundraising drive for future emergencies.

TO RAISE MONEY:

Fundraisers such as motorcycle runs, fish fries or raffles are great ways to gather donations. Another Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Riders chapter can assist in sponsoring or promoting a fundraiser for NEF.

TO DONATE:

Proceeds from fundraisers, individuals or groups may be donated to NEF by visiting www.legion.org/NEF or mailing a check to The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.
ENSURE CHECKS ARE DELIVERED

It takes about a week for checks to be delivered from National Headquarters to the Department Headquarters. As the processors are taking the applications, they should use a spreadsheet to document the details: name, contact information, etc. A sample spreadsheet provided by National Headquarters has been provided to departments and is available at www.legion.org/NEF.

It is also recommended to use this sheet to follow up with those who have not received their checks. Contact them to coordinate when and where they can receive their checks.

KEEP COMMUNICATING

NEF coordinators should conduct discussions with their team members soon after the NEF work is completed. Find out what worked well, what did not work well and what improvements should be implemented before the next disaster occurs. NEF coordinators are encouraged to make recommendations to their department leadership.

ENCOURAGE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

After leading a team through the NEF process in a disaster aftermath, the NEF coordinator has unique knowledge and perspective. Consider discussing with your department leadership what you learned and what would be helpful for other communities in the event of a disaster. What you learned also may serve as a good session during a department convention.

GENERATE GOOD PR

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, you most likely came in contact with members of the local media. As you finalize grants and other assistance, this would be a good time to reach out to the media again for positive coverage. For example, you could write a letter to the editor and/or issue a press release detailing the number of grants and money distributed to victims. The media often looks for positive stories after an emergency, so you could also suggest stories on how a post building or veteran’s home is recovering in the aftermath.