



MICHAEL F. SMITH
Grand Exalted Ruler

A Fraternal Organization

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2011
TO: State Association Presidents
Lodge Exalted Rulers
FROM: Michael F. Smith, Grand Exalted Ruler *MFS*
RE: BPO Elks Disaster Relief Fund

Since its earliest days, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been committed to easing the burden of those most affected by natural disasters. Recently, severe storms and tornadoes struck the southern portion of our country and wreaked havoc..... Thousands of people have seen their homes wrecked and their personal belongings destroyed. Many lives have been lost.

Since we have a Disaster Relief Fund established, we were able to quickly send money to the Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia State Elks Associations which were affected by these terrible storm systems. To date, over \$100,000 has been distributed and, with the summer months coming shortly, your assistance is needed.

We, as Elks, come forward to lend a helping hand to those in need. It is what our Order is known for and it is a responsibility from which we will not shy. Now, your help is needed to prove, once again, that ***Elks Care – Elks Share***.

I'm asking Elk Members to ***"Be Proud...Be Loud...and Be Visible"*** by sending donations to our Disaster Relief Fund to replenish the funds expended and build our reserves so we have money available to lighten the burden and lend a helping hand to victims of future catastrophes. Donations are tax deductible as allowed under the 501(c)(3) IRS Code.

All checks should be made payable to: BPO Elks Disaster Relief Fund.

Contributions should be mailed to:

BPO Elks Disaster Relief Fund
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

MFS:jac

cc: Advisory Committee
Board of Grand Trustees
Special Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers
District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers
Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee