

#### RELATED TERMS

- Pre-Packaged Food
- Homemade Food
- Public Communication



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## LESSON LEARNED

#### PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Volunteers/ Donations Management
- Emergency Management
- Public Information

### Donations Management: Educating the Public on Acceptable Food Donations

#### SUMMARY

Local officials should inform the public that pre-packaged food is the safest and most useful way to donate food to emergency responders. This information should be communicated to the public immediately following an emergency to ensure that all donated food is acceptable and not wasted.

#### DESCRIPTION

After the attacks on September 11, 2001, people around the nation donated food to emergency responders to show their support. Local fire and police departments across the country received an enormous amount of homemade and pre-packaged donated food items.

Donations of homemade food proved to be a problem for emergency response officials who could not guarantee the food was safe for consumption. However, officials could not refuse the public's generous offerings; consequently, a significant amount of food was wasted. State and local officials should inform the public that pre-packaged, store-bought food is the safest and most helpful way to donate food to emergency responders.

#### CITATION

Titan Systems Corporation. *Arlington County After-Action Report on the Response to the September 11 Terrorist Attack on the Pentagon*. May 30, 2002.  
([http://www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/fire/edu/about/docs/after\\_report.pdf](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/fire/edu/about/docs/after_report.pdf))

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