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Insurers prepared to begin task of assessing damage from Hurricane Dolly

The insurance industry is prepared to begin contacting their customers just as soon as it is safe to enter the areas in south Texas impacted by Hurricane Dolly, an insurance industry spokesman said today.

“We anticipate the number of claims associated with this storm to be in the thousands when we combine losses to personal and business property,” according to Jerry Johns, president of Southwestern Insurance Information Service, a non-profit insurance trade association and a spokesman for the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.

“Insurers will have a sufficient number of claim adjusters to meet the needs of those who have suffered damage,” he added. “It is not uncommon for insurers to bring in adjusters from other parts of the country to meet the demand.”

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“Following passage of the storm those people who have damage should contact their insurance agent or company as soon as possible,” he stressed. “Once it is safe, victims of Hurricane Dolly should start making minor repairs to prevent further damage. Most insurers will reimburse people for the cost.”

“Do not make major repairs until a claim representative has had an opportunity to inspect the damage,” he said.

“Many street signs will have been destroyed by high winds so it is a good idea to place a durable sign in the yard with your address and the name of your insurance company,” Johns said. “If you are unable to remain in your home leave a sign with the telephone number where an adjuster can contact you.”

“Do not dispose of damaged personal property until an adjuster has inspected it,” he said. “Photos or video taped documentation is helpful, but not required,” he noted.

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