



Southwestern Insurance Information Service

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CONSUMER TIP

SIIS Office: (512) 795-8214

SIIS Cell: (512) 965-4001 Jerry
(512) 468-6965 Sandra

SELECTING A CONTRACTOR FOLLOWING A STORM

People suffering damage to their homes and businesses as a result of weather-related damage should be aware of unscrupulous contractors ready to take advantage of storm victims.

In disaster situations, scam artists posing as contractors are often ready to take advantage others' misfortune.

Most contractors are reputable and willing to provide references of those for whom they have performed work in the past. Getting repair work done to damaged roofs and fences can be a positive experience if people use building contractors with a history of quality work.

Ask for references from contractors' satisfied customers and if there is any warranty work being offered, make sure you receive the agreement in writing.

Speak with your insurance claim representative before making any firm commitments for repair. Experienced claim people can be invaluable in these type of situations.

Get proof of licensure and a written estimate from contractors and all guarantees, warranties and promises in writing.

Be suspicious of a repair contractor who accepts only cash payments or asks you to pay the entire amount up-front. A small down-payment may be necessary but don't make the final payment until the work is completed to your satisfaction.

For Additional Information:

8303 N Mopac, Ste B-231
Austin, TX 78759

Phone: (512) 795-8214
Fax: (512) 795-9363

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A very unpleasant experience can be avoided by following some time-tested rules which have been effective in other areas where severe weather has taken place.

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