



GEORGE DALE
Commissioner of Insurance
State Fire Marshal

LEE HARRELL
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Mississippi Insurance Department

501 N. West Street
1001 Woolfolk Building (39201)
Post Office Box 79
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0079
(601) 359-3569
<http://www.doi.state.ms.us>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

George Dale, Commissioner of Insurance/State Fire Marshal
Mississippi Insurance Department
Jackson, Mississippi
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For additional information, please contact
Donna J. Cromeans, Public Relations Director 601-359-3579

Dale Offers Disaster Follow Up To Victims of Storm

Mississippi Insurance Commissioner George Dale today advised residents of Mississippi that his Office has communicated with all the major writers of homeowners insurance in Mississippi to ensure that they have adequate staff and resources to handle any damage caused by Hurricane Dennis. Dale said his Office has taken steps to ensure that the companies are ready to send in their catastrophic loss teams to start working with our residents to process their claims as soon as the storm passes.

Dale also announced that, if needed, his Office is prepared to set up an emergency on-site office in the damaged area to assist residents. Most of the major carriers have already committed to Dale to set up emergency claim offices in damaged areas. Several of the companies have volunteered to run advertisements informing their insurers on how to contact them.

What to do following a catastrophic storm:

- If your property is damaged you should contact the agent that sold you the policy. If you have trouble reaching your agent you can contact your company or the Mississippi Insurance Department at 1-800-562-2957. The Department will locate your company or agent and get an adjuster assigned to your claim. Any victims should go ahead and get their insurance company's name and policy number to speed up the claim process.
- Keep all receipts for expenses for any damages to your home.
- Be careful before you enter any damaged property and be careful of escaping natural gas, live electrical wires and collapses.
- Take pictures of any damages before you repair both inside and outside. If possible, make temporary repairs to your property to prevent further losses.
- If possible, open the windows and doors to let the air circulate and help remove the foul odors to protect you from escaping gas and to dry out the house.
- Hire licensed and reputable contractors for repair work. Call the Mississippi State Board of Contractors at 1-800-880-6161 or visit their website at <http://www.msboc.state.ms.us> to determine if a contractor is properly licensed.
- If anyone suspects "price gouging" they should contact their local law enforcement or the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division, at 1-800-281-4418.

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