



## **For Immediate Release**

**February 11, 2013**

### **Mississippi Insurance Department Ready to Assist Storm Victims**

Jackson, MS –Victims of the Sunday's storms across the state are urged to document damage and file their insurance claims as quickly as possible. The Mississippi Insurance Department's (MID) consumer services division is standing ready to assist policyholders with their claims. Anyone having problems reaching their agent or insurance company, or filing their claim should call the MID Consumer Services toll-free number at 1-800-562-2957.

"Our thoughts are with victims in Hattiesburg and the surrounding area as they begin cleanup and repairs from the storms. The Mississippi Insurance Department is ready to help the recovery process by making the claim filing process easier," Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney said.

Commissioner Chaney, who is also the State Fire Marshal, added that State Fire Marshal Deputies have been deployed to the area to assist local authorities. Representatives from the MID Consumer Services Division will be setting up a mobile claims assistance center in the area later today.

To help Mississippians expedite filing claims Chaney offers the following tips:

If you suffered damage from Sunday's storms:

- Have your insurance company's name and policy number ready 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.

- 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.msdoc.state.ms.us> to determine if a contractor is properly licensed.

If you have not suffered damage there is still time to prepare for the next round of storms as we move further into severe weather season:

- Move all of your important documents to a safe location; store them in a safe deposit box outside the area.
- Take an inventory of your personal property, such as clothes, jewelry, furniture, computers and audio/video equipment. Photos and video of your home, as well as sales receipts and the model and serial numbers of items, will make filing a claim simpler. (A home inventory checklist is available on the Consumer Publications List page of the MID website at [www.mid.state.ms.us](http://www.mid.state.ms.us).)
- Leave a copy of your inventory with friends or relatives, e-mail it to yourself, and/or store it in a safe location. In addition, add insurance information to your inventory information - the name of your company and agent, policy number and contact information.

Additional information on storm recovery, including a link to Insurance Company 800 Claim reporting numbers can be found on the Disaster/Storm Preparation and Recovery page of the MID website at [www.mid.ms.gov](http://www.mid.ms.gov). and via Twitter @MSInsuranceDept.

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