



For Immediate Release

August 30, 2012

Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney to Survey Damaged Areas

JACKSON - Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney will be surveying the flooded and damaged sections of the state as the waters recede to get a first-hand look at the scope of the disaster and evaluate the response needed.

MID has issued emergency licenses to over 900 adjusters who will be working claims in the state and fire marshals will be travelling the state and reporting damages.

MID typically responds to catastrophes with a mobile command unit manned by MID Consumer Services Division personnel who will hand out Disaster Assistance Cards, answer any questions consumers may have, provide phone numbers of insurers, provide paper complaint forms, provide claim reporting tips sheet and sometimes take complaint info on site for processing.

MID can provide general information to consumers when an agent or company is unavailable. 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.

The MID Mobile Response Unit typically sets up near the MEMA response team and insurance company emergency response units. That location is yet to be determined.

Chaney is reminding citizens in flood-damaged areas to use extreme caution when re-entering flooded properties. 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 continue in severe weather season.

Consider the following safety guidelines when returning to assess damage from flood waters.

For manufactured or factory-built homes:

Examine the overall exterior appearance for any signs that flood waters may have caused movement or settlement to occur.

Look for obvious signs such as the building not being level, the bottom skirting missing, block support piers missing, loose tie down straps, or the building being completely off the foundation.

If any of these conditions are present **Do Not Enter the Home.**

Immediately contact a licensed installer in your area to assist with stabilizing your home.

For all types of housing:

If the fuel system (propane or natural gas) for your home was not removed prior to the flood and the fuel container or metering device appears to have been displaced by the flood waters, contact your fuel source provider to inspect and disconnect the tank or meter from the supply lines.

Flooding in the interior of a home can cause issues with the heating/cooling systems, the plumbing systems and the electrical systems. It is essential that these

systems be evaluated by licensed heating/cooling contractors, plumbers and electricians for possible damages before any utility service is restored.