



For Immediate Release

September 4, 2012

MID Sets up Hurricane Isaac Claims Assistance Centers

Jackson- As cleanup from Hurricane Isaac continues, Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney announces today that the Mississippi Insurance Department is setting up two additional claims centers to assist residents with their claims.

In addition to MID's Coast Office at Bolton State Office Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 404, in Biloxi, MID will be operating a Claims Center in Picayune at the National Guard Armory, 1251 Hwy 11 S. and in Waveland at 454 Hwy 90.

Anyone having problems reaching their agent or insurance company, or filing their claim should visit one of these three locations, or should call the MID Consumer Services toll-free number at 1-800-562-2957.

"Our thoughts are with storm victims as they begin cleanup and repairs from Isaac. We urge them to document damage and file their insurance claims as quickly as possible," Chaney said.

MID has also set up a special Hurricane Isaac page on their website, www.mid.state.ms.us. In addition to claims filing information, company #800 numbers and a live feed of the Department's Twitter account, the page will contain other important Disaster Assistance numbers such as FEMA, the Red Cross and others.

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

If you suffered damage from the 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.

As September is National Preparedness Month, MID offers these additional tips to help you be prepared for the next storm:

- 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.)
- 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.

MID will also be sending out tips and information via Twitter at @MSInsuranceDept.

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