



NEWS

RELEASE

RALPH HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER
www.oci.ga.gov
Twitter: @GA_DOI

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Contact: Glenn Allen
404-463-0729
gallen@oci.ga.gov

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK MAY 15-21

Atlanta – May 15-21 is National Hurricane Preparedness Week, and Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens is reminding property owners that now is the time for an insurance checkup to be sure you have adequate homeowners or renters coverage.

“Our coastal residents face the most danger if a tropical storm or hurricane strikes,” Commissioner Hudgens said. “However, even residents who live further inland face the hazards of strong winds, heavy rain and inland flooding. To protect your property from the financial impact of destructive storms, a homeowners, renters or flood insurance policy tailored to your particular needs is your best option.”

Hudgens suggested that property owners discuss their insurance needs with their insurance agent. One important factor to consider is whether you want actual cash value coverage or replacement cost coverage. With actual cash value, you will receive only the current value of an item when you file a claim. In other words, you'll get only "used" prices for your furniture, TV, etc. With replacement cost coverage, your claim amount will be enough to purchase new items.

Once you have insurance, make a list of your covered items, such as furniture, electronics and other valuables. An electronic record is a good idea. Keep copies of the list or photos in a safe place outside your home, such as a safe deposit box or stored online with a Cloud service. An accurate record of your possessions will be invaluable if you need to file a claim with your insurance company.

Flood insurance coverage for your home or business is available for up to \$250,000 from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You can purchase NFIP flood insurance directly from any state-licensed property and casualty insurance agent or insurance company. Your insurance agent can confirm whether flood insurance is available to you and what it would cost.

Anyone with insurance questions can visit the Department of Insurance online at www.oci.ga.gov or call us toll free at 1-800-656-2298. Phone lines are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.