

## Consumer Alert: Hurricane Season is Quickly Approaching

Hurricane season is less than 30 days away...yes, 30 days! So that means your time for preparation is dwindling down quickly. As your Insurance Consumer Advocate, I urge you to NOT delay preparation, including insurance-related matters.



As we've seen in recent years, tropical storms and hurricanes have occurred prior to the official start of hurricane season. Last year, both Tropical Storm Arthur and Tropical Storm Bertha formed in May. Researchers predict 17 named storms, eight of which are to become hurricanes and four to reach a category 3-5. While that sounds average, in 2020, experts predicted between 13 and 19 named storms. However, in 2020, there were 30 named storms, setting the record for the highest number. The unpredictable nature of storms is why it's even more important to always be prepared.

### Plan Prepare Protect: Are You Disaster Ready?

I developed **Plan Prepare Protect: Are You Disaster Ready?** to educate consumers on specific hurricane preparedness and recovery steps they can take before, during and after a disaster. I encourage you to review the program and take actionable steps today to prepare for an imminent disaster.



Additionally, as contractors play an important role in the building, repair and recovery process, I want you to be aware of dishonest vendors looking to take advantage of you during vulnerable times such as after a disaster. **Demolish Contractor Fraud: Steps to Avoid Falling Victim** helps educate consumers on how to spot fraud and protect themselves from becoming a victim.



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Research contractors now so you won't be enticed or pressured by those soliciting your business after a hurricane.

- Verify a contractor's license on the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's website: [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com).
- Also, check for workers' compensation insurance on the Department of Financial Services website: [www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/WC](http://www.MyFloridaCFO.com/Division/WC).
- Lastly, check for complaints and business rating on the Better Business Bureau's website: [BBB.org](http://BBB.org).

**Review the program now to ensure you're prepared.**



**The countdown continues...**

Feel free to send me an email with insurance questions or concerns:

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*Tasha Carter*

The Voice for Florida's Insurance Consumers

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