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FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

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**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION TRIGGERS CONSUMER
PROTECTION LAWS AHEAD OF HURRICANE ISAIAS IMPACTING ALABAMA**

Law Enforcement may charge unlicensed homebuilders with a felony

(MONTGOMERY, Ala.) – Oct. 8, 2026 – In preparation for the severe weather impact Hurricane Isaias may have along Alabama's gulf coast and central Alabama, the Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board cautions homeowners of the potential for scams, fraud and price gouging during post-storm damage cleanup, repair, and rebuilding. The Home Builders Licensure Board warns Alabamians to be on the lookout for fraud when hiring anyone to repair storm damage and purchase needed items.

On Wednesday, October 7, 2026, Governor Kay Ivey issued an [emergency proclamation](#) impacting Autauga County, Baldwin County, Barbour County, Bibb County, Bullock County, Butler County, Chambers County, Chilton County, Clarke County, Choctaw County, Coffee County, Conecuh County, Coosa County, Covington County, Crenshaw County, Dale County, Dallas County, Elmore County, Escambia County, Geneva County, Greene County, Hale County, Henry County, Houston County, Lee County, Lowndes County, Macon County, Marengo County, Mobile County, Monroe County, Montgomery County, Perry County, Pickens County, Pike County, Russell County, Sumter County, Tallapoosa County, Tuscaloosa County, Washington County, Wilcox County, ahead of the potential hurricane landfall. This emergency proclamation triggers numerous actions and consumer protection laws of government and private sector partners to respond and protect Alabama citizens impacted by the storm. One of those consumer protection measures is the provision of the Aggravated Home Repair Fraud law that makes

unlicensed homebuilding a class C felony, when offering services after an emergency declaration.

A state homebuilders license is required when the cost of the job exceeds \$10,000. However, consumers and residents are encouraged to seek professionals licensed by the Board even if the scope of the work doesn't exceed \$10,000. A roofers license is required for replacing a storm-damaged roof and the cost of the job exceeds \$2,500. Performing or offering such services is normally a class A misdemeanor, but when you take advantage of homeowners after such an emergency weather event, it becomes a felony.

“With the Governor’s emergency proclamation, anyone unlicensed who takes advantage of Alabamians with storm damage to their homes, the Home Builders Licensure Board will work with law enforcement and district attorneys to charge and prosecute you for the felony crime of aggravated home repair fraud,” said Seth Gowan, Executive Director of the Alabama Home Builder’s Licensure Board.

“Taking advantage of fellow Alabamians who suffer damage or loss of property will not be tolerated,” added Gowan.

If you experience damage to your home as result of the severe weather event, the Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board outlines steps consumers should take before hiring anyone to perform repairs.

- **Ask if they are licensed** with the Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board. Ask to see the card! The HBLB license is a paper or digital, credit card-sized license. Consumers and residents can also check our website to verify licensure status by calling 1-800-304-0853, or by visiting www.hblb.alabama.gov.

- **Ask for and check references**, especially if the builder makes unsolicited contact with you or is from out-of-town.

- **Make sure quotes and contracts are in writing and include the Home Builders Licensure Board license number.** Under state law, licensed homebuilders must use a written contract. Make sure it includes the contractor’s full name, address, telephone number, a description of the work to be performed, starting and estimated completion dates, and the total cost of the job.

Gowan encourages residents, “to be cautious and patient. Work with your insurance company, check to make sure contractors are licensed, ask a lot of questions, and if you believe a contractor is not in the area for the right reasons, call law enforcement.”

Consumers may also report concerns of alleged fraud or price gouging to the Attorney General's Office for investigation. To fill out a complaint online, visit www.alabamaag.gov and look for the "consumer complaint" link. You may also dial our Consumer Interest Division toll-free, 1-800-392-5658."

For information about home repair licensing and potential fraud, contact the Home Builders Licensure Board, 445 Herron Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, (334) 242-2230 or 1-800-304-0853 or visit www.hblb.alabama.gov.

Related documents:

[Governor's Emergency Proclamation](#)

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