

While hurricane season doesn't begin until June; it's never too early to prepare for dangerous weather. Lightning, heavy rains, floods, tornadoes and wildfires are just a few of the dangers our beautiful state can hide. Stockpiling supplies and having an emergency evacuation route planned are great ways to prepare for Florida's severe weather, but even with all of the necessary preparations, Mother Nature can still inflict a savage blow to your home or business.

To mitigate the damage incurred from an emergency, be sure to use only licensed professionals to make repairs after disaster strikes. Many repairs can be performed without a license, such as:

- Trimming or removing a fallen tree;
- Removing debris; and,
- Placing a tarp on a roof.

It's important to note that other, more serious, repairs must only be made by a licensed professional, including:

- Roof repairs;
- New or replacement roofing;
- Installing new window;
- Plumbing repairs; and,
- Electrical repairs or rewiring.

Many people grow desperate during the aftermath of severe weather and they become affected by lapses in judgment that would not occur under normal conditions. Opportunists posing as licensed professionals typically seek to take advantage of those made vulnerable by times of catastrophe. These unlicensed individuals are eager to prey on the desperation of disaster-afflicted Floridians, so remember to protect yourself! Never allow the urgency of a natural disaster to overrule your better judgment, never pay cash in full before work is completed, and always be cautious of making checks payable to individuals.

As an added measure of protection, consumers can verify professional licenses with DBPR at www.myfloridalicense.com, by calling (850) 487-1395 or by downloading the free DBPR Mobile app through the iTunes or Google Play app stores. Floridians are asked to report suspected unlicensed activity by emailing ULA@myfloridalicense.com or by calling the Unlicensed Activity Hotline at 1 (866) 532-1440.

Sincerely,



Ken Lawson
Secretary

**Department of Business and
Professional Regulation**