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Office of the Commissioner of Insurance: Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner shares tips for consumers filing claims after winter storm damage

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Madison, Wis. — Insurance Commissioner Nathan Houdek is sharing tips and reminders for Wisconsinites who may have experienced property damage as a result of the recent winter storm.

“Ice dams, car accidents, and power outages may have caused damage to property during this week’s storm,” said Commissioner Nathan Houdek. “If you experienced any damage, it’s important to notify your insurance agent or company right away to begin the claim process.”

The experts at the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) also recommend that consumers consider the following tips as they respond to storm damage:

- Make a list of damaged items, including cracks in walls, missing shingles, spoiled food due to a power outage, etc.
- Take photographs of the damages before you begin to clean up
- Don’t throw out any damaged property without the claim adjuster’s agreement

Consumers can learn more about settling property insurance claims here.

“As Wisconsinites recover from this storm, storm chasers who are unlicensed to perform repairs may try to take advantage of the situation,” said Commissioner Houdek. “Do your homework before signing any contracts and consider working with your insurance company to identify reliable, licensed contractors.”

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection offers tips to prevent problems, based on past consumer complaints. Wisconsinites can also contact DATCP’s Wisconsin Consumer Protection Hotline at (800) 422-7128 or DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov to find out if any complaints have been made against a particular business or contractor.

If Wisconsinites encounter any issues with their insurance agent or company, they are encouraged to contact our office to file a complaint. Contact OCI at 1-800-236-8517 or visit our website for more information.