

Disaster Recovery in the Wake of August Flooding: Emergency Contacts and Helpful Tips

We wish everyone the best of luck and hope everyone is safe with the major flooding that took place in Louisiana this past weekend. We know there are many of you out there who are in need of assistance both now and after the waters have receded. Below is a list of resources we hope you will find helpful in recovering from the storm as quickly as possible:

FEMA Applications:

Fema assistance line: <http://www.fema.gov/apply-assistance>
1-800-621-3362

Repairing Your Flooded Home:

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4540081_repairingFloodedHome.pdf

Restarting A Flooded Car:

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/cars/how-to/a70/1272386/>

Photo Repair for photos caught in flood waters

Tips for Saving your photos:

1. remove photos from any framing or glass. Keeping the photo within the frame will cause the water trapped between the glass and the image to pool and distort the image.
2. lay the photos **FLAT** on a dry surface (using a towel or cloth to lay them on will help in the drying process)
3. **DO NOT** stack the photos on top of each other. If you do, then the photo on bottom will adhere to the back of the photo on top and will be damaged beyond repair. A baking rack will serve well in creating vertical space for drying.

Avoiding Contractor Fraud:

AVOID CONTRACTOR FRAUD WITH 5 STEPS:

During Katrina, Gustav, and it will surely occur here again; contractors rushed in to "help." Please do due your diligence before contracting a home repair.

1. Use a licensed Louisiana contractor. Check their registration status

at:<http://www.lslbc.louisiana.gov/contractor-search/>

2. Do a better business bureau or other rating service (e.g. Angie's list) check:

<http://www.bbb.org/baton-rouge/>

3. Unless only a very small amount of money is involved that you will not miss when the contractor runs off with it, agree only to pay 10% to start job, and 10% for each 10% of the work completed.

4. Use contractors that can give you copies of their workers compensation insurance, liability insurance, and performance bond; and then call the listed agents to verify current coverage and then document these calls with names, dates, times and what as said (or record these calls).

5. File your contract and a copy of the contractors performance bond in the mortgage records of the parish your property is in so that you do not have to pay again all the merchants and subcontractors that your contractor may leave unpaid. RS 9:4812.

Information provided by Mark Dumaine/LDAA