

Polk County

Board of Supervisors Office News



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Polk County Warns Storm Victims of Possible Scams

Des Moines, IA- Polk County Board of Supervisors, Polk County Emergency Management and Pleasant Hill on Tuesday discussed the concern of possible scams relating to tornado and storm damage victims.

Community leaders are encouraging those impacted by storms to keep in mind the following information and remain cautious for those soliciting the following services. Please be aware of the following suggested advice.

Fake offers of state or federal aid:

- Beware of visits, calls or emails from people claiming to be from FEMA or the State of Iowa asking for your Social Security number, bank account or other sensitive information. Giving out this type of information can help an unscrupulous person make a false claim for assistance or commit identify theft.

Fraudulent building contractors:

When hiring a contractor, the Iowa Attorney General suggests:

- **Check out the contractor before you sign a contract or pay any money.** Ask if the contractor is registered with the Iowa Workforce Development's Division of Labor Services. You can check a contractor's registration online through the [Division of Labor Services](#) website or call 1-800-562-4692 or 515-242-5871. Check local references. Ask the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division if it has complaints (515-281-5926 or 1-888-777-4590).
- **Get it in writing!** Get several written estimates for the job you want done. Before any work begins, agree on a written contract detailing work to be done, responsibility for permits, costs, and any other promises. Request a copy of the contractor's liability insurance certificate. Put start and completion dates in writing and consequences if the contractor fails to follow them (example: the contract could be nullified if the contractor doesn't start on time.)
- In most cases, [Iowa's Door-to-Door Sales law](#) gives you three business days to cancel a contract signed at your home.

Polk County has set-up online resources to help those in need of assistance to answer questions and help with insurance claims.

Please visit:

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management/recent-disaster-information/insurance-claims/>