



Oregon Construction Contractors Board

700 Summer St. NE, Suite 300

PO Box 14140

Salem, Oregon 97309

(503) 373-2007 FAX

www.oregon.gov/ccb

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: November 16, 2009 (PR 09-08)
CONTACT: Gina Fox (503-378-4621 Ext. 4016)

CCB sends warning to coastal areas

Strong winds and heavy rains are expected to hit Oregon's coastal areas over the next couple of days. The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) warns Oregon homeowners who experience damage from the storm, not to become a victim to thieves pretending to be legitimate contractors. Homeowners whose homes and other property are damaged in storms are prime targets.

If roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings are damaged, or if you've got downed trees that should be removed, "Stay away from unlicensed contractors," says CCB Enforcement Manager Richard Blank. "Scam artists come out of the woodwork after severe weather to prey on people anxious to get their home fixed because more winter weather is on the way."

In the event trees are downed, it is possible that power lines are also affected. Homeowners should be extremely cautious and to treat downed power lines as if they are live. Report these downed lines to your local electrical utility.

The CCB has the following advice on repairing your damaged property:

- Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations, "too-good-to-be-true" bids and contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates.
- Don't pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are properly completed.
- Always use a properly licensed contractor.

Homeowners can easily check with the CCB to make sure the contractor is properly licensed through the agency website www.oregon.gov/CCB, or 503-378-4621. A license offers some financial protection to consumers through the business' CCB bond and insurance. Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.

The CCB is the state agency licensing more than 42,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. Free consumer publications with helpful tips are available at the CCB's website and 503-378-4621.

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