



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN OXENDINE
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.gainsurance.org

For Immediate Release
May 27, 2009

Contact: Glenn Allen or Wayne Whitaker
404-651-7902
inscomm@oci.ga.gov

HURRICANE SEASON STARTS NEXT WEEK

Atlanta – Hurricane season begins June 1, and Insurance Commissioner John W. Oxendine wants to remind Georgians that they should check their insurance policies annually to be sure they have adequate coverage.

Besides high winds, hurricanes can cause flooding, storm surge in coastal areas, and tornadoes, all potentially devastating to property.

"Our coastal residents face the most danger if a hurricane strikes, and the only way to ensure their safety is to evacuate," Oxendine said. "However, citizens who don't live on the coast may still face the hazards of strong winds, heavy rain and inland flooding. To protect your home and other property from the financial impact of destructive storms, a homeowners or renters policy tailored to your particular needs is your best option."

"Business owners should consider business interruption coverage, as well as having a policy to cover the physical assets of a business," Oxendine added. "After a hurricane it can take weeks or months to get a business back up and running."

Oxendine suggested that homeowners discuss their insurance needs with a reputable insurance agent. Renters too should consider a policy to cover their personal belongings; the landlord's policy generally will not cover the loss of a tenant's possessions.

One important factor to consider is whether you want *actual cash value* coverage or *replacement cost* coverage. With actual cash value, you will receive only the current value of an item when you file a claim. In other words, you'll get only "used" prices for your furniture, TV, etc. With replacement cost coverage, your claim amount will be enough to purchase new items.

An accurate record of your possessions will be invaluable if you need to file a claim with your insurance company, so make a list of covered items such as furniture, electronics, and other valuables. A photographic or videotape record is a good idea. Keep copies of the list or photos in a safe place *outside* your home, such as a safe deposit box.

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30, with September the month when the powerful storms are statistically most likely to occur.

Anyone with questions about homeowners or other types of insurance can call the Commissioner's Consumer Services Division at **404-656-2070**, or toll free at **1-800-656-2298**. Phone lines are open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

###