



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOMEOWNERS: BE WARY OF UNSCRUPULOUS CONTRACTORS

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois. –It is especially important that homeowners be wary of “fly-by-night” contractors looking to take advantage of victims in the wake of a disaster.

The Springfield Area Home Builders Association (SAHBA) urges all homeowners to trust their home repairs and rebuilding projects to a certified, professional contractor. When it comes to your most prized and valuable asset, your home, you want the best quality in terms of workmanship and materials. Natural disasters, like tornadoes, are an unfortunate fact of life, but an unscrupulous contractor is one disaster you can prevent if you pay attention to some common warning signs.

Red Flags to be aware of when choosing a repair or rebuilding contractor, include:

- ✓ **Price and Payment** – Be wary of pressure tactics, like a contractor telling you that if you don’t sign the contract right now your low quoted price will increase. Paying a deposit of anywhere from 20 to 50 percent is common; however, paying the full cost before work begins is not. Be suspicious if you are asked to pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check, money order or credit card to a company. Also, do not sign over your insurance settlement check to the contractor in lieu of paying them directly.
- ✓ **References** – Make sure that the contractor has a verifiable mailing address for his or her business. Be wary if the contractor won’t provide references for past work or if the references can’t be reached. Do your research. Check to see if the business has complaints that have not been resolved with the Better Business Bureau. (Find the nearest BBB to you at www.bbb.org/us/find-a-bbb/). Check sites like Angie’s List (www.angieslist.com) for negative reviews or ratings.
- ✓ **Contract and Completion** – Be sure that you insist on a complete and clearly written contract signed by both you and the contractor. Find out if any of the work requires city or county inspection; if so, make sure it is completed and you have the paperwork to prove it. All work and inspections should be completed before you make your final payment.

To find a professional contractor in your area, contact the Springfield Area Home Builders Association at 217-698-4941 or visit www.SpringfieldAreaHBA.com, where you can search our Member Directory for reputable companies in the home construction industry.

About SPRINGFIELD AREA HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION

The Springfield Area Home Builders Association (SAHBA) is an organization made up of firms in the building industry that include builders, remodelers, developers, and associated businesses. The association is dedicated to improving the local housing industry through legislation, education, and services for the benefit of the members and local communities. The goal of the SAHBA is to be the voice of the building industry in the Springfield area.

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