



## HIRING UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS CAN BE DISASTROUS!

Natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes and floods, have a great impact on Florida's citizens. In the event of a natural disaster, remember that all repair work performed on your home or business should be completed by a licensed professional.

Contractors often travel from out of state to a disaster area and take advantage of the large amount of repair work to be done.

Unlicensed activity occurs when a person who is not licensed by the state performs or offers to perform a job or service that requires licensure in one of the professions regulated by the state.

**During a declared State of Emergency, the penalty for unlicensed construction activity becomes a third-degree felony.**

**Follow these steps to prevent becoming the victim of an unlicensed activity scam after a natural disaster:**

**1. Know what services require a state license.**

Below are some examples of common storm-related services that may or may not require a state license from DBPR. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, and any additional or detailed questions should be directed to the Department by calling 850.487.1395.

| Services Requiring a License   | Services Not Requiring a License |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Roof Repairs                   | Trimming a Damaged Tree          |
| New or Replacement Roof        | Removing a Damaged Tree          |
| Installing New Windows         | Removing Debris                  |
| Plumbing Repairs               | Placing a Tarp on a Roof         |
| Electrical Repairs or Rewiring |                                  |

**2. Verify licenses before you hire or sign a contract.**

Always verify the license online or call the Customer Contact Center at 850.487.1395. DBPR also has a free smartphone app that enables consumers to search for state licenses by name or license number.

**3. Use your best judgment when signing a contract and making payments.**

Get everything in writing, including a detailed description of the work to be completed, a completion date and the total cost. Do not pay cash in full before the work is completed and be cautious of writing checks made payable to individuals, especially when dealing with a company.

**4. Report unlicensed activity.**

You can report unlicensed activity by calling the Department's Unlicensed Activity Program at 1.866.532.1440 or emailing [ULA@myfloridalicense.com](mailto:ULA@myfloridalicense.com).