

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, each year, South Carolina faces catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and other natural disasters, all of which carry the potential to cause serious damage – or, even worse, total destruction – to private property and homes; and

WHEREAS, following disasters, stressed and strained homeowners are vulnerable to predatory practices from dishonest contractors fraudulently inflating repair or rebuilding costs; and

WHEREAS, predatory practices by nefarious contractors ultimately increase costs for consumers by driving up insurance premiums and forcing insurers to reevaluate risk; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that an effective public outreach campaign highlight the various types of contractor fraud schemes to help educate consumers on how to identify and avoid such schemes; and

WHEREAS, the National Insurance Crime Bureau encourages South Carolinians to get at least three written estimates, check contractor credentials, and work closely with insurers during the entire rebuilding process when hiring a contractor; and

WHEREAS, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, in collaboration with its local and state partners in the Palmetto State, including law enforcement, first responders, legislators, and state officials, are committed to educating South Carolinians about predatory practices by dishonest contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 22 - 26, 2023, as

CONTRACTOR FRAUD AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to become familiar with contractor fraud and participate in the various programs during the week.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Media Release

For Immediate Release
May 22, 2023

Contact: Katie Geer
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Governor McMaster Declares Contractor Fraud Awareness Week

COLUMBIA, SC – Governor Henry McMaster has officially declared May 22 to 26, 2023 as Contractor Fraud Awareness Week in South Carolina. This proclamation aims to raise awareness among South Carolinians about predatory practices employed by dishonest contractors and emphasizes the importance of taking preventive measures to combat contractor fraud, through educational and outreach efforts by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

In collaboration with its local and state partners in South Carolina, the NICB is dedicated to educating residents about the risks associated with fraudulent contractors. The NICB recognizes the significance of fostering a community that is well-informed and equipped to identify and avoid unscrupulous contractors.

The South Carolina Department of Insurance (SCDOI) supports Governor McMaster's proclamation of Contractor Fraud Awareness Week and applauds the collaborative efforts of the National Insurance Crime Bureau and its local and state partners.

"We are pleased to join forces with our local, state and national partners to get the word out about Contractor Fraud Awareness Week," said Michael Wise, Director of the SCDOI. "Consumer protection is central to our mission at the SCDOI. Educating our citizens about predatory practices by dishonest contractors is an important part of our efforts."

Predatory practices employed by dishonest contractors not only harm individual consumers but also have far-reaching consequences for the community as a whole. Such practices ultimately increase costs for consumers by driving up insurance premiums and compelling insurers to reevaluate risk. By proactively addressing contractor fraud, South Carolinians can safeguard their homes, protect their financial well-being, and contribute to the stability of the insurance market.

During Contractor Fraud Awareness Week, the NICB encourages residents in the Palmetto State to follow essential steps when hiring contractors for home repairs or renovations. These steps include obtaining at least three written estimates, thoroughly verifying contractor credentials, and working closely with insurers throughout the entire rebuilding process. By adhering to these practices, homeowners can significantly reduce the likelihood of falling victim to fraudulent schemes.

Read Governor McMaster's Contractor Fraud Awareness Week Proclamation here ([will link](#)). For additional resources on combating contractor fraud, please visit the SCDOI's website at [SCDOI.gov/fraud](https://www.scdoi.gov/fraud).

