



# South Carolina Department of Insurance

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release**

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### **South Carolina Department of Insurance and SC Safe Home Host Hurricane Mitigation and Preparedness Expo**

The South Carolina Department of Insurance and the SC Safe Home Program are hosting the SC Safe Home Expo and Training Conference August 9-11 in North Charleston, South Carolina. This is a first-of-its-kind educational event for coastal residents and professionals on the unique issues that face South Carolina's coastal communities.

“We will kick off the SC Safe Home Expo on Sunday with an Outreach and Preparedness Fair from 1-5 p.m. that is free and open to the public,” said Scott Richardson, Director of the South Carolina Department of Insurance. “We are hopeful that homeowners and residents will take advantage of the event and join us in learning more about homeowners’ insurance, flood insurance, the importance of mitigation and pre-disaster planning.”

The Outreach and Preparedness Fair will include hands-on demonstrations showing homeowners how they can strengthen their property and help it survive the strong winds associated with hurricanes and other natural disasters. Additionally, sessions will be held throughout the afternoon explaining homeowners’ and flood insurance basics, the South Carolina Wind and Hail Underwriting Association, catastrophe savings accounts, available tax credits for mitigation measures the SC Safe Home Grant Program and other important money saving mitigation initiatives.

Monday and Tuesday (August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) will include training courses for industry professionals - insurance producers (i.e. agents), real estate professionals, members of the banking industry, building officials, flood plain managers and contractors. The SC Safe Home Expo and Training Session has been approved to offer continuing education (CE) credits for participants with the following professional licenses: Monday – insurance producers (8 hrs.), real estate agents (4 hrs.), flood plain managers (7.5 hrs.) and Tuesday- building code enforcement officers (3 hrs.). “We are hopeful that industry professionals will be interested in this opportunity to increase their knowledge base in order to better serve their clients,” Director Richardson said.

#### Background Information:

The SC Safe Home Grant Program was established by the Omnibus Coastal Property Insurance Reform Act of 2007. SC Safe Home provides up to \$5,000 to qualifying homeowners to retrofit and strengthen their property against the strong winds associated with hurricanes and other natural disasters. To date, SC Safe Home has awarded more than 750 grants totaling approximately \$4 million. These awards have included roof and window replacements with hurricane-rated shingles and windows, the installation of secondary water barriers, roof to wall connectors, tie-downs for manufactured homes, the installation of hurricane shutters as well as the installation of hurricane-rated (130 mph) garage doors. For additional

information about the upcoming Expo and training sessions, please visit <http://www.scsafehome.sc.gov/conference.htm> .

Attached is a copy of a flyer announcing the Sunday Mitigation and Preparedness Fair and a copy of the Agenda for the Monday and Tuesday Training Sessions.

Should you have questions concerning this information, please contact Ann Roberson, 803-737-6207.

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