



# South Carolina Department of Insurance

Capitol Center  
1201 Main Street, Suite 1000  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 100105, Columbia, S.C. 29202-3105  
Telephone: (803) 737-6160

MARK SANFORD  
Governor

SCOTT H. RICHARDSON  
Director of Insurance

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**March 5, 2010**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Ann Roberson**  
**Phone: 803-737-6207**

---

### **Prepare and Protect Homes and Property against Hurricane Winds**

*Learn Important Information at  
The SC Department of Insurance and SC Safe Home Continuing Education Day*

Today, Director Scott Richardson announced that the South Carolina Department of Insurance and the SC Safe Home Program have partnered with the Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of SC, and the SC Wind and Hail Underwriting Association to offer a Continuing Education Day on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The training session will focus on educating professionals about the mitigation initiatives and consumer incentives created by the Omnibus Coastal Property Insurance Reform Act of 2007.

The session will include discussions about strengthening a property to better withstand hurricane force winds, the availability of insurance premium discounts and credits, state income tax credit opportunities, catastrophe savings accounts and the residual property insurance market. "Now is the time for coastal residents to begin to prepare for hurricane season, which officially kicks off in three short months. This training session will educate industry professionals on the opportunities available to help coastal property owners in this process and help them better serve their clients," said Richardson, Director of the South Carolina Department of Insurance. "We look forward to local insurance agents and realtors as well as other business professionals joining us in learning more about these critical issues."

The half-day seminar will provide in-depth information for industry professionals - insurance agents, real estate professionals, members of the banking industry, flood plain managers, building officials and contractors. The training session has been approved to offer continuing education credits for participants with the following professional licenses: insurance producers (5 hours) and real estate professionals (4 hours).

The Continuing Education Day will be held at the following location:

**SC Omnibus Coastal Property Insurance Reform Act  
Continuing Education Day  
March 23, 2010  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors  
951 Shine Avenue  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577**

For registration information, please see the attached registration form or visit [www.doi.sc.gov](http://www.doi.sc.gov) or [www.scsafehome.sc.gov](http://www.scsafehome.sc.gov). You may also call 803-737-6087 with questions.

Background Information:

The SC Safe Home 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. SC Safe Home has awarded more than 1,000 grants totaling more than \$4.5 million to homeowners living in the following coastal counties: Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion and Williamsburg. Science indicates that the single most effective mitigation measure a homeowner can make is the replacement of the roof with a stronger, safer roofing system. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the grants awarded have been used for roofing system retrofits. SC Safe Home continues to make an important economic impact to coastal communities by creating jobs in the construction and home improvement industries. For additional information, please visit [www.sc.doi.sc.gov](http://www.sc.doi.sc.gov), or [www.scsafefhome.sc.gov](http://www.scsafefhome.sc.gov).

###