



South Carolina Department of Insurance

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

NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor

RAYMOND G. FARMER
Director

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

Media Release

December 30, 2015
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ann Roberson
Phone: 803-737-6207

South Carolina Department of Insurance to Provide Consumer Assistance

Beginning Monday, January 4, 2016 the South Carolina Department of Insurance will have a representative available locally every other Monday to assist residents of the greater Hilton Head Island and Bluffton area with their insurance questions and concerns. Joseph McDonald, Consumer Liaison for the SC Department of Insurance will hold office hours from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. through February 29, 2016 at 1 Chamber of Commerce Drive, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

“We are pleased to be able to offer our services to the residents of the greater Hilton Head Island and Bluffton area by holding office hours locally and thank the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce for hosting us,” said Ray Farmer, Director of the South Carolina Department of Insurance. “While the Department provides a toll-free telephone number and on-line assistance capabilities for consumers, a local presence will also be helpful so that residents can meet personally with a department representative and discuss their insurance concerns. I encourage consumers to review their coverage and let us see how we can help them prepare for the year ahead.”

The beginning of the year is a good time to review your insurance policies to ensure that you have the best coverage that suits your needs. You should conduct an annual review of your homeowners and health insurance policies and talk with your agent and company representative about your policy and the coverages that you have or may need.

You should also complete a home inventory or detailed listing of your property. Forms are available and if you have a smart phone, there is an app for that. The myHOMEScr.APP.book app lets users capture images, descriptions, bar codes and serial numbers of personal possessions and stores the information electronically for safekeeping. The app organizes information by room and creates a backup file for e-mail sharing. To download the free app, go to the iTunes® or Android® Market app stores and search “NAIC.” For those without a smart phone, please visit the South Carolina Department of Insurance’s website, <http://www.doi.sc.gov/> to find a link to a printable form. You may also access both the app and the form by visiting http://www.insureuonline.org/insureu_type_home.htm.

Take the time now to make a family disaster plan in the event that you are required to evacuate your home at some point throughout the year. Put together a disaster kit for your family and prepare your property for storms and high winds associated with severe weather. For more information about preparedness and mitigation please visit <http://www.ready.gov/>.

The South Carolina Department of Insurance Office of Consumer Services has extended call-in hours Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You may also reach an analyst by calling 1-800-768-3467 or via e-mail at consumers@doi.sc.gov.

###