



South Carolina Department of Insurance

300 Arbor Lake Drive, Suite 1200
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

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

For Immediate Release
May 22, 2008

Contact: Ann Roberson
Phone: 803-737-6207

South Carolina Department of Insurance Announces Award of SC Safe Home Grants

Scott H. Richardson, Director of the South Carolina Department of Insurance and Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the South Carolina Building Codes Council, announced today the seventh round of SC Safe Home Grant awards. "Hurricane season officially begins June 1, 2008. We are pleased to announce these awards and commend these homeowners in their efforts to strengthen their homes and be better equipped to withstand the damaging effects of hurricane force winds," said Director Richardson.

Eighty homeowners were awarded grants of up to \$5,000 each to help strengthen their homes against the high winds associated with hurricanes and other natural disasters. To date, 397 grants have been awarded totaling approximately \$1,985,000. During this round of awards, grants were awarded to homeowners living in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg counties.

The SC Safe Home Grant Program was established this past June as a part of the Omnibus Coastal Property Insurance Reform Act of 2007. The Program, administered by the South Carolina Department of Insurance, provides opportunities for families to increase the safety of their homes against the high winds associated with hurricanes and severe storms.

Retrofitted or strengthened homes are less vulnerable to the effects of severe storms, thereby rendering storm damage less likely and less extreme. Fewer damages result in fewer or lower insurance claims and will ultimately reduce insurance premiums for all South Carolinians.

Homeowners can apply for the program to receive funds up to \$5,000 to make specific mitigation improvements as recommended by a SC Safe Home Certified Wind Inspector. During the pilot phase, the SC Safe Home Grant Program is focusing on those areas that are most vulnerable to the effects of hurricane damaging winds.

Go to the South Carolina Safe Home website at www.SCSafeHome.com or call 803-737-6117, 803-737-6087 for SC Safe Home Grant Applications and/or additional information. For information to help in preparing one's property for hurricane season, please visit the South Carolina Department of Insurance website at <http://www.doi.sc.gov/>.

For questions concerning this information, please contact Ann Roberson, Public Information Officer, at 803-737-6207.

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