

Farmers Insurance Offers Advice in Advance of Gustav

PRNewswire

The Farmers Insurance Group of Companies is preparing for Gustav should this storm make landfall along the Gulf Coast as a tropical storm or a hurricane.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20080605/LATH062>)

Farmers Insurance advises its customers in Gustav's projected path to pay close attention to the latest weather reports and begin making necessary preparations, including:

-- Create a Home Inventory. "Have an up-to-date inventory of all of your personal property," said Paul Quinn, Assistant Vice President of Claims Communications for Farmers Insurance. "Take pictures and then email them to relatives living out of state. A home inventory will help you replace your belongings faster."

-- Prepare an Evacuation Plan. "Plan ahead and map out a safe and smooth evacuation route, and please follow any evacuation orders," Quinn added. "Things can be replaced, nothing is worth putting yourself or your family in harm's way." Quinn also recommends having all prescriptions and important paper work at the ready in case you have to leave your home on short notice. "It is also a good idea to have emergency supplies such as flashlights, radio, batteries and water on hand if you live in a hurricane prone area."

-- Hurricane-Proof Your Home. "We recommend installing storm shutters to protect your windows, or nailing plywood panels to your window frames when a storm approaches," said Quinn. "It is also a good idea to cover your sliding doors with plywood, and to replace old garage doors and tracks with a door that is approved for both wind pressure and impact protection." Quinn explained, "if wind comes into your home through a large opening, it increases your chances of major damage to the rest of your home, especially your roof."

Farmers has two Mobile Catastrophe Claims (MCC) buses and dozens of Customer Care Claims Vehicles (CCV) which are dispatched nationwide during severe weather events.

Once a storm hits, Farmers Insurance customers with damage should immediately contact their agent or call Farmers' 24-hour-claims hotline, 800-HelpPoint (1-800-435-7764) for immediate assistance.

Foremost Insurance customers should file their claim by calling: 800-527-3907.

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