



Fraud Alert!

C.A.S.E.

*Churches Against
Senior Exploitation*

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Home repair scammers hitting the area

Recent hail storms battered windows, roofs and siding throughout Weld County, leaving residents to shovel out from more than just yards full of ice pellets. But the storm's aftermath does not have to be as damaging as the hail and wind.

As always, there are scammers out there who will offer repairs at a too-good-to-be-true rate, many willing to come straight to your door with their offers.

Beware. They may leave town with your money, without finishing or even starting the promised work or use shoddy materials that will not last.

The simplest way to avoid falling victim to a scam is to hire reputable contractors that are licensed and insured and check their credentials. Also, check their references and vet the company through a third-party source such as the local Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org).

Never rush into signing a contract or hiring a contractor.

Make sure you know the details and price of the job, have it in writing in advance and actually read the entire contract so there are no surprises. Beware of workers who try to rush you past this step.

While roofing contractors do not have to have a business license to operate in Greeley, they do need to get the correct building permits, they must have a sales tax license and, if they are going door to door, need a solicitor's license, according to the Greeley Police Department. These are all requirements to check to make sure a job is on the up-and-up.

But the best advice to lessen the aftereffects of the storm is to hire a reputable professional with ties to the community.



Immediately report to your local police agency if you think you are a victim of crime.
To view other Fraud Alerts, go to www.weldda.com.