

C.A.S.E. Program - From Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck

Door-to-Door Repair Services: Don't be the Victim of a Repair Scam

Spring has sprung and so has inclement weather. Spring brings with it rain, wind and hail that can damage your home. A growing trend is for scammers to use recent storms to take advantage of your weather-related troubles.

Dishonest contractors often go door to door in a neighborhood hit hard by a recent storm, hoping that you will pay them for repair services. Here are a few tips if your home is damaged by a storm.

- 1. **Use a Licensed Contractor** Work only with contractors who can prove to you that they are licensed and insured. An uninsured contractor won't be covered if they damage your home while working on it.
- Get Everything in Writing Require your contractor to put all the details about the repair work in writing up front. Include the cost, scope of the project, time guarantees and payment information. It's also a good idea to ask for references who can talk about work the company has performed in the past.
- 3. **Keep Records** Ask your contractor to show you his or her driver's license so that you can write down the information on it. If the person refuses, that's a red flag that they don't want to be identified after the work is done. It's also a good idea to write down the license plate number of the contractor's vehicle.
- 4. **Look Before You Sign** Always read the entire contract before you sign it. Do not sign a contract that has blank spots. Never pay a contractor in full until the work is completed. You should also contact your insurance provider before signing anything.

