

NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Carri Grube Lybarker, Administrator



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2015 | Release #15-020

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New Brochure Outlines How to Avoid Buying a Flood-Damaged Vehicle

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) announced its partnership with the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association and the Carolinas Independent Automobile Dealers Association in a statewide effort to warn consumers about flood-damaged vehicles entering the marketplace. The partnership included the development of a brochure aimed to deter consumers from falling victim to dishonest sellers and avoid buying a flood-damaged vehicle.

The brochure, “What You Need to Know About Flood-Damaged Vehicles”, highlights information that is beneficial for anyone buying a car, with tips including:

- sticking to well-known, reputable sellers;
- knowing that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is; and
- walking away if anything seems suspicious.

The new brochure also explains the steps of what to do before buying, such as how to inspect a vehicle, test its electronics and check the vehicle history. According to SCDCA Administrator Carri Grube Lybarker, “No one step alone is the silver bullet that will keep you from buying a flood-damaged vehicle.” Instead, she cautions that consumers should understand that checking for flood damage is a process, and all of the steps combined are required to arm yourself against fraud.

Administrator Lybarker also pointed out that although the recent flooding in South Carolina will affect the amount of flood-damaged vehicles for sale in the state, they are always in the marketplace. Flood-damaged vehicles travel in to the state from other areas affected by disasters and flooding. Therefore, it is important for consumers to always be on the lookout, and know how to protect themselves from falling victim to a disreputable seller.

Consumers or organizations wanting printed copies of “What You Need to Know About Flood-Damaged Vehicles” can make a request by e-mailing scdca@scconsumer.gov or calling 800-922-1594. To view the brochure in digital form, visit SCDCA’s website, www.consumer.sc.gov, and look under Flood Information on the home page. SCDCA’s “Auto Guide for Consumers” is also available on the website and printed copies by request.

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit www.consumer.sc.gov or call toll-free, 1-800-922-1594.

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