



# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 8, 2017 | Release #17-022

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## **State of Emergency: SC Residents Urged to Prepare for Hurricane Irma**

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is urging consumers to heed disaster preparedness warnings as Hurricane Irma approaches.

While gathering food, water, and finding shelter are paramount, after meeting those needs, consumers are encouraged to consider the following to ease disaster recovery if Irma does hit South Carolina:

- **Organize your documents.** Collect your most recent financial and identification documents and keep them in safe, dry place. Be prepared to take them with you if you have to evacuate.
- **Review your insurance policies.** Become familiar with the types and levels of coverage you have. Consider taking an inventory of valuables in case you have to file a claim. Research whether your policies cover temporary shelter, replacement clothing or other items in the event of a disaster.
- **[Read SCEMD's Hurricane Guide.](#)** The guide provides detailed information on evacuation zones and routes, official communication channels that provide emergency alerts and much more.
- **Report price gouging.** Report instances of price gouging to the police and the Office of the Attorney General by emailing reports to [pricegouging@scag.gov](mailto:pricegouging@scag.gov), or calling (803) 737-3953. For more information, [see the Attorney General's press release on price gouging.](#)
- **Read SCDCA's [Recovering from a Disaster.](#)** After the storm passes, this guide can help you decide where to begin in the recovery process. Whether you have outstanding bills, need home improvement services or a temporary place to live, the guide addresses specific steps to take.

### **About SCDCA**

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](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) or call toll-free, (800) 922-1594.

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