

Office of the  
**State's Attorney**

---

601 N. MAIN STREET • SUITE 302 • BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS 61008-2609 (815) 544-0868

**Michelle J. Courier**  
Boone County State's Attorney

**November 2, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Michelle Courier, (815)547-8199**

**Courier Warns Consumers to be Alert for Storm Chasing Scams**

Boone County State's Attorney Michelle Courier has received a number of Home Repair Fraud complaints in the area against an out-of-town roofing company offering free estimates to repair roofs caused by hail damage.

Courier reminded consumers that the Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act requires contractors to furnish customers with written contracts for any repair or remodeling work costing more than \$1,000. This contract must be signed by both the customer and the contractor.

The law also requires that contractors carry at least minimum amounts of insurance for property damage, bodily injury, and improper home repair. Contractors also must provide consumers with an informational pamphlet entitled "Home Repair: Know Your Consumer Rights."

For additional information on how to avoid consumer scams, visit [www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov). If consumers suspect storm chasers are attempting to scam residents in the area, Courier urges them to call the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline: (800)243-0618 (Springfield) or (800)386-5438 (Chicago).