

## A note to Kansas consumers

Living in Kansas brings with it the threat of damaging winds, pelting hail or rushing floodwaters, which cause millions of dollars of property damage across the state annually.

This brochure is designed to help you understand your storm coverage. Having appropriate insurance coverage is your best protection against a devastating loss caused by nature.

Call our Consumer Assistance Hotline for further information to help you be prepared: 800-432-2484.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy".

Sandy Praeger,  
Commissioner  
of Insurance

**Homeowner's policies do not cover flood and water damage losses.**

**Learn about the National Flood Insurance Program and about obtaining coverage. Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 888-379-9531.**

# Kansas Insurance Department

**Sandy Praeger,**  
Commissioner of Insurance

## Contact us

### Online:

[www.ksinsurance.org](http://www.ksinsurance.org)

### By e-mail:

[commissioner@ksinsurance.org](mailto:commissioner@ksinsurance.org)

### Consumer Assistance Hotline:

800-432-2484

### Main number:

785-296-3071

### By mail:

420 S.W. 9th St., Topeka, KS 66612

### By fax:

785-296-2537

**Hours:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays  
(except state holidays)



October 2008

## Before and after the storm



**Insurance tips for preparation and recovery**

**Kansas Insurance Department**

**Sandy Praeger,**  
Commissioner of Insurance

**[www.ksinsurance.org](http://www.ksinsurance.org)**

## ***Preparation before the storm***

Do you have the right insurance? Be sure you know what your policy covers. Is the amount of coverage adequate? Does it cover new additions or recent remodeling? Check all limits, including coverage for contents. Keep your agent's name and number available and easy to find. The Kansas Insurance Department encourages you to periodically discuss coverage options with your agent.

Not all policies cover the following:

- Water and windstorm damage.
- Debris or tree removal.
- Sewer backup because of flooding.
- Sump pump failure.
- Additional living expenses if disaster forces you from your home.

Check your auto policy. Comprehensive coverage (other than collision) pays if a storm or floodwater damages your car.

Inventory your personal property. KID can provide you with a "Personal Home Inventory" booklet to help you list the contents of your home.

Update your inventory. Photograph and videotape each room and the exterior of your home. List model and serial numbers, and keep receipts from big-ticket items.

Keep a copy of the inventory, sales receipts and video or photographs in a secure place outside of your home.



The Kansas Insurance Department can help in the following situations:

- Your agent or company doesn't respond to your calls.
- You believe you have not received a fair settlement.
- You have a dispute about contract language or state legal requirements for coverage.

## ***Recovering after the storm***

If you suffer loss or damage because of a storm, refer to the following tips on how to proceed:

- Contact your agent and/or insurance company immediately.
- Keep a record of conversations with your agent or company. Write down the date and time, the person's name and a summary of the call.
- Make a list of all damaged property, and take photographs.
- Get instructions from your company's adjuster before calling anyone to repair or replace damaged property. Your insurer's visual inspection of your loss may be required before claims are paid.
- The adjuster will ask you for a list of all damaged property with the date, price and place of purchase. Keep a copy of this information and all insurance company forms you fill out.

## ***Settling your claim***

If a disaster occurs, adjusters will handle the largest losses first, but they will work to handle all claims as quickly as possible.

Remember the following:

- Be present when your adjuster inspects your property.
- Insurance companies will have their own adjusters who will carry employee identification. These adjusters will not charge you a fee for service. Be leery of any adjuster who charges a fee, and always ask to see identification.
- Beware of questionable or unfamiliar contractors. Get more than one bid, and hire a local, reputable contractor to make the repairs.
- Don't accept an unfair settlement. If you can't reach an agreement with your insurer, call the insurance department.