



K a n s a s I n s u r a n c e D e p a r t m e n t

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

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Database Established To Track Vehicles Damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

TOPEKA, KS – Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger has announced that consumers can protect themselves from flooded Gulf-region vehicles and boats with unsafe electrical systems by checking ID numbers listed on a free database from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). Consumers will be able to search the NICB database for vehicles and watercraft specifically affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

This database is provided cooperatively through an effort by the National Association of Insurance Commissioner's (NAIC) Anti-Fraud Working Group, the insurance fraud unit of the Louisiana State Police and several insurance entities.

“Making this information available to consumers in an easily accessible format, will serve to inform and protect them from vehicle fraud,” said Praeger who currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the NAIC.

NICB is collecting the ID numbers of vehicles and boats from the flood region and logging them into a database. This will help potential buyers avoid being defrauded by shady sellers. Many vehicles and boats will be cleaned up and their titles washed to hide their soggy history. In many cases, they'll have dangerous and unsound electrical systems.

The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) can be found on dashboards, driver's side door jamb stickers, and title documents. The Hull Identification Number (HIN) can be found on the right rear of the watercraft hull. To access information on vehicles, consumers should visit www.nicb.org where the link to information appears on the homepage.

The NICB database does not attempt to determine the scope of the damage, if any, to any particular vehicle or watercraft, including the fact that some vehicles or watercraft on this list may have had no damage or very minor damage, while others had extensive damage and may no longer be safe to operate. The NICB recommends that any vehicle or watercraft affected by a hurricane be thoroughly inspected by a competent mechanic of choice prior to further use or purchase.

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About the Kansas Insurance Commissioner

Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance Commissioner, oversees the activities of the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) which is headquartered in Topeka, Kansas. The overriding objective of Commissioner Praeger and KID is to protect consumers, and help maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry. KID regulates and monitors the activities of 23,000 resident agents, 48,000 non-resident agents and 1684 insurance companies licensed to do business in the state of Kansas. The Department offers financial, actuarial, legal, computer, research, market conduct and economic expertise. Visit www.ksinsurance.org for more information.