

Picking Up the Pieces After a Disaster



Dealing with a disaster is never easy. But when scammers target people just trying to recover, it can be even worse. Here are some tips to help you avoid common post-disaster scams.



Avoid Clean-up & Repair Scams

- **Be skeptical of anyone promising immediate clean-up and debris removal.** Some may quote outrageous prices, demand payment up-front, or lack the skills needed.
- **Check them out.** Before you pay, ask for IDs, licenses, and proof of insurance. Don't believe any promises that aren't in writing.
- **Never pay by wire transfer, gift card, or in cash.** And never make the final payment until the work is done and you're satisfied.



Spot Imposters

- **Guard your personal information.** Only scammers will say they're an official and then demand money or your credit card, bank account, or Social Security number.
- **Know that FEMA doesn't charge application fees.** If someone wants money to help you qualify for FEMA funds, that's probably a scam.
- **Spot rental listing scams.** Steer clear of people who tell you to wire money or ask for security deposits or rent before you've met or signed a lease.



FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION

For more information, visit:

ftc.gov/weatheremergencies

Suspect a scam? Report it to:

ftc.gov/complaint