



DON'T BE A VICTIM OF CONTRACTOR FRAUD

Disasters create chaos and bring on a lot of stress and uncertainty. A disaster will draw many people to our area to help impacted households. Unfortunately, a disaster also attracts dishonest people.

Don't get scammed by crooks who want to take advantage of you!

People posing as reputable contractors will show up in your neighborhood or at your door to offer construction services. Some of these people will have dishonest intentions and try to take advantage of your vulnerable situation. Disaster survivors want their homes repaired quickly, but there is always a shortage of construction help after a storm. This can be frustrating for households who want to "feel normal" again. Storm chasers and scammers know this. They will make you believe they have come to save the day. **Don't be a victim!**

IDENTIFY STORM CHASER SCAMS WITH THESE **RED FLAGS**:

People who go door-to-door looking for business but can't provide references or credentials, do not have a local storefront office location, have out-of-state license plates on their vehicle, provide no business card or one with very little identifying information, has an untraceable business or personal profile when searched on the internet, or there is no record of them through Better Business Bureau.

People who request **CASH ONLY**.

People who do not provide an official contract with a detailed scope of work, project cost, or job timeline. Verbal agreements mean nothing. If it's not in writing, it did not happen!

People who pressure you to make a quick or on-the-spot decision. Try to get more than 1 bid if possible.

Watch what you sign. Read everything carefully. Look for unclear or misleading language.

Anyone that gives you an "uneasy" feeling.

People who want a large payment up front or offer a discount if you pay up front with cash. After Harvey, many people paid "cash up front" to contractors for supplies, but never saw the contractor or their cash again.

People unwilling to provide a proper receipt when you exchange payment. Anytime you pay money for a service, the business will provide you with a receipt if they are reputable. Never turn over cash to anyone without receiving a receipt that documents the transaction, what it is for and displays the name of business and their information.

**CHECK A BUSINESS THROUGH BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU
409-835-5348**

If a contractor makes promises that are "too good to be true," there is probably something wrong. If you pay cash up front, there's always a chance you may never see that contractor or your money again. It is always better to research a contractor and the business they represent before agreeing to do business. Always ask hard questions to test the legitimacy and honesty of the person or business. Do your best to use a local business that has an internet presence, a storefront business address, trusted references by people you know, and businesses that have a positive record with Better Business Bureau Serving Southeast Texas.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

County Judge: 409-835-8466

Jefferson County Emergency Management:
409-835-8757
co.jefferson.tx.us/em.htm

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office:
409-835-8411
co.jefferson.tx.us/Sheriff

Jefferson County Commissioners:
Precinct 1: 409-434-5430
Precinct 2: 409-727-2173
Precinct 3: 409-983-8300
Precinct 4: 409-835-8443

Jefferson County Health Department:
Beaumont: 409-835-8530
Port Arthur: 409-983-8380

Jefferson County Disaster Recovery:
409-240-0331

Jefferson County Courthouse Website:
co.jefferson.tx.us

SBA: 1-800-659-2955

Salvation Army: 409-896-2361

American Red Cross: 409-883-2322

Catholic Charities: 409-924-4400

Some Other Place: 409-832-7976

Habitat for Humanity: 409-832-5853

Southeast Texas Food Bank: 409-839-8777

City of Beaumont:
beaumonttexas.gov
Mayor: 409-880-3770
Emergency Management: 409-980-7280
Police Department: 409-832-1234
City Council: 409-880-3770

City of Port Arthur:
portarthurtx.gov
Mayor: 409-983-8105
Emergency Management: 409-983-8632
Police Department: 409-983-8600
City Council: 409-983-8115

City of Nederland:
ci.nederland.tx.us
Mayor: 409-723-1503
Police Department: 409-722-4965
City Council: 409-723-1503

City of Port Neches:
ci.port-neches.tx.us
Mayor: 409-727-2181
Emergency Management: 409-722-5885
Police Department: 409-722-3122
City Council: 409-727-2181

City of Groves:
cigrovestx.com
Mayor: 409-962-4471
Police Department: 409-727-1614
City Council: 409-962-4471

City of Bevil Oaks:
cityofbeviloaks.com
Mayor/City Council: 409-753-1475

City of Taylor Landing:
taylorlanding.com
Mayor/City Council: 409-527-3349

City of China:
409-752-5403

CONNECT & FOLLOW these official Jefferson County pages on FB for factual, timely information to assist with your recovery:



1. Jefferson County, TX Office of Emergency Management
2. Jefferson County Long Term Recovery Group
3. City of Beaumont Texas Office of Emergency Management
4. City of Port Arthur

