

*Avoid*

# HOME REPAIR FRAUD AFTER A DISASTER

(Issue date 9/6/11)

## 1. Get several bids

Ask for written bids or estimates from at least three different contractors if you can

## 2. Check out the contractor

Get the contractor's full name, address and phone number

Ask for references and call them up

Check with the Better Business Bureau and courthouse for criminal history & civil cases against the contractor

For repairs over \$10,000, ask to see a copy of the Texas Residential Construction Commission certificate



## 3. Get it in writing

Get written contract

Specify work to be done

Specify the price

Don't sign anything you don't understand



## 4. Control the money

Don't pay ANYthing up front. Insist on waiting to pay the full amount until after the work is finished

Don't let the contractor talk you into early payment (or get you to pay more money than you agreed to). You have the legal right to pay for no more than what was completed.

Don't make the final payment until you have inspected the work and are completely satisfied with the repairs.

**Report bad contractors to the Better Business Bureau, the Texas Attorney General, the local district attorney and Lone Star Legal Aid 713-495-1951**