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LAPORTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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# Press Release

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## LaPorte Police Department Reminds Residents to Guard Against Home Repair Scams

LAPORTE, IN, June 28, 2010: In the wake of storm damage sustained by many citizens during the past few weeks, The LaPorte Police Department would like to remind residents to guard themselves against being victims of home repair scams and fraud.

Although there are many honest and reputable home repair contractors, there are many types of home repair frauds committed by people who are anything but honest and hardworking.

Seniors, those who live alone, and victims of weather-related disasters are common targets.

The best way to protect yourself from becoming a victim of these "scammers" is by making yourself knowledgeable about your consumer rights and exercising common sense.

Some prevention tips include;

- Never let a door-to-door solicitor into your home.
- Don't be misled by claims of huge savings "if you act today" or other high-pressure sales tactics.
- Get at least three (3) written estimates from other contractors on the work to be done and the cost.
- Insist on a written contract. It should specify in detail the type of work to be done, start and completion dates, and substantial payment dates. It should also include the company's name, address and phone number.
- Beware of companies that require a large down payment.
- Check with your local city or county building department to determine licensing requirements and to ensure that the contractor you are considering is properly licensed, bonded and insured.

For these and many more prevention tips, the LaPorte Police Department has a free brochure available "[Tip Offs to Rip Offs](#)" available in the agency's lobby.