

STATE OF KANSAS
Tenth Judicial District
OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Steve Howe, District Attorney
Economic Crime Division ~ Consumer Protection Division

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Steve Howe
(Olathe, KS)

Date: March 21, 2017

**JOHNSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY WARNS RESIDENTS AGAINST HOME
REPAIR SCAMS FOLLOWING THE OVERLAND PARK FIRES**

Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe warns residents not to fall victim to insurance and home repair scams arising in the wake of Monday's tragic fires. There are already reports of scammers targeting victims in Overland Park.

The District Attorney's Office urges residents to make direct contact with their insurance providers regarding damage. They should not give any personal information to individuals attempting to provide insurance and/or repair services door-to-door.

Residents are advised to obtain home repair services from reputable local businesses. The business should provide a verifiable local phone number and address. Out-of-state vehicle tags and unmarked vehicles are often indications of transient merchants who travel to damaged areas, collect money for repair services, and then leave the area before completing any of the promised repairs.

Contractors offering significant home repair or roofing services are required to be licensed by Johnson County, and permits are likely required by Overland Park. Additionally, all roofing contractors must register with the State of Kansas and should be able to produce proof of registration to homeowners. If a contractor cannot produce the required licenses or is unable to obtain the required permits, residents should take their business elsewhere.

Before paying any money to a contractor, residents are encouraged to contact Johnson County Contractor Licensing to determine if the business has obtained the appropriate licenses to conduct the needed repairs.

Residents may contact the Johnson County District Attorney's Consumer Hotline at 913-715-3003 with any questions or to report scams in their neighborhoods.