



AVOIDING SCAMMERS: 5 TIPS FOR HIRING A ROOFING CONTRACTOR

(Please make sure you obtain ACC approval from the HOA prior to beginning any exterior modification projects)



(NewsUSA) – Sponsored by GAF – It's the biggest con being played on homeowners, according to the Better Business Bureau's new Scam Tracker Annual Risk Report. "Some guy knocks on your door claiming to have extra roofing material

left over from a nearby job, and offers to fix yours for bupkis. And you know what you get for bupkis, right? Invariably, the scammer — who especially loves showing up in areas recovering from major storms — takes the money and runs after doing little or no work.

"You always try to give people the benefit of the doubt," the Bureau's Felicia Thompson told a local CBS TV station in Arizona. "Not everybody's bad, but nowadays you just can't do that. "No, you can't. And now that you've been forewarned about this particular swindle, read on to learn how to choose the right (reputable) contractor to repair or replace your own roof.*

Make certain they're insured. If there's one thing that's non-negotiable it's that the contractor carry insurance for all employees and subcontractors — and provide a copy of their certificate for your inspection. "Actually call the insurance carrier to confirm that they are valid," Angie's List advises.* Run if they suggest this. Did the contractor vying for your business really just claim to be able to handle a storm-related repair, say, without you paying your required insurance deductible? There's a name for that: insurance fraud, which

you want no part of.* Run even faster if they suggest this. While it's reasonable for contractors to request a modest down payment before work begins — call it "earnest money" — beware if the figure exceeds 20 percent of the bill's projected total cost. Should they start talking 50 or even 75 percent, though. . ."The red flags of possible fraud are fluttering," the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud's James Quiggle has warned.*

Know your contractor. When it comes to peace of mind, hiring a contractor who's a member of a reputable roofing manufacturer's contractor program is helpful. But certification alone may not tell the whole story. GAF, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, for example, is exceptionally strict about who it designates as its highest-ranking "Master Elite Contractors" — less than 2 percent of roofing contractors have qualified — and you can find one in your area through a quick search on the [gaf.com](http://www.gaf.com) website.

"We have a full vetting process we go through to determine whether they're the right contractors to put in our program, like making sure they're licensed and insured where required, and have a history of installing roofs in the local community," says Jim Slauson, GAF's vice president of certification program and services.* Communication skills matter. A knowledgeable contractor will present a range of roofing shingle and accessory options by price, style and color. Balking at running through them with you is a bad sign. Oh, and about that Scam Tracker Annual Risk Report. Guess who's "most susceptible," as the Bureau delicately put it, to home improvement scams in general? Men aged 55-64. Now you're doubly forewarned.

Avoiding Scammers: 5 Tips for Hiring a Roofing Contractor was posted at Copyright Free Content. | <http://www.copyrightfreecontent.com>

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Willow Creek Elementary	281-357-3080
Canyon Pointe Elementary.....	281-357-3122
Northpointe Intermediate	281-357-3020
Willow Wood Junior High	281-357-3030
Tomball High School	281-357-3220
Tomball Memorial High School.....	281-357-3170

PROPERTY TAX

Harris County Tax.....	713-224-1919
Mud #280 and Mud #15.....	281-376-8802
NW Harris WCID	281-376-8802

POLICE & FIRE

Emergency	911
Harris County Sheriff (Non Emergency)	713-221-6000
Klein Vol. Fire Dept.	281-376-4449

MEDICAL

Tomball Regional Medical Center	281-401-7500
Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.....	281-477-1000
Houston Northwest Medical Center	281-440-1000
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-586-4700
Texas Sports Medicine Center	281-351-6300
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)	281-378-0800

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Floodwater Mosquitoes



If you've been outside lately, you have most likely noticed the giant mosquitoes that seem to want to pick people up and carry them off. With recent weather conditions, floodwater mosquitoes have

emerged in large numbers.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in ponds, ditches, pastures, or other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry areas and when these areas are flooded the eggs hatch, leading to swarms of hungry mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are larger than mosquitoes we are used to and can swarm in high numbers.

While floodwater mosquitoes won't last forever, other mosquitoes called container breeding mosquitoes emerge when floodwaters begin to recede. Many of these species are ones that we are used to seeing around our homes.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when activities cannot be rescheduled.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Trick or Treat Safety Rules...

- Never trick or treat alone. Have at least 2 buddies go with you.
- Young children should always go with an adult.
- Plan your entire route and make sure your family knows what it is.
- Carry a flashlight and wear a watch.
- Be very cautious of strangers.
- Visit houses with lights on, especially with Halloween decorations.
- Accept treats only in the doorway. Never go inside a house.
- Never pick up treats from the street. They may be poisoned or belong to another kid.
- Wearing a mask? Be sure it has large eyeholes ... better yet, wear face paint.
- Wear a flame retardant costume with reflector strips on the front & back.
- Walk, Do Not run.
- Walk on sidewalks & driveways. Look both ways when crossing a street.



Be Safe & Have Fun!

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BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



October is breast cancer awareness month, and physicians affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital say it's a great reminder for women to schedule their annual mammography.

"I chose to go into medicine after a close family member passed away from breast cancer at a young age. That's why I encourage all my patients to have an annual mammography beginning at age 40," says Iyabode M. Ogunlade, M.D., an OB-GYN affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress.

Symptoms of breast cancer include any lump, thickening, or swelling in the breast or armpit, pain in the breast, or change in size or shape of the nipple. However, the American Cancer Society says many women don't experience any symptoms.

"The key to successfully treating breast cancer is detecting the cancer early. That's why having your annual mammography is so important," says Dr. Ogunlade. "There are also several types of mammograms, including 3-D mammograms, so make sure you speak with a physician about the different screening methods to determine which is right for you."

MD Anderson Breast Care with Memorial Hermann- Cypress combines the convenience and advanced technologies of Memorial Hermann's breast care centers with interpretation and consultation provided by expert radiologists from MD Anderson. This innovative partnership ensures the high quality, safe imaging and expert reading that are critical for precise diagnosis, effective treatment and follow-up for breast cancer patients. MD Anderson Breast Care with Memorial Hermann- Cypress offers 3-D mammography (breast tomosynthesis), breast MRI, breast MRI biopsies, breast ultrasound, stereotactic breast biopsies, and ultrasound biopsies. All of these advanced technologies are conveniently offered close to home for Cypress area residents, and appointments can be scheduled by calling 346.231.6950.

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HARVEY

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Just as Hurricane Harvey displaced thousands of people. Harvey also displaced thousands of wild animals. Compassionate residents have brought birds, snakes, squirrels and even an alligator to TWRC Wildlife Center for care.

Although there is no way of knowing the actual number of animals affected, the numbers are, no doubt, very high. It is human nature to want to help these animals but in some cases, it is better to leave them alone.

- **DEER** – Many deer were forced to move to higher ground. People are seeing deer in their yards, in the streets and other areas with dry land. It is for your own safety that you do not try to catch these animals. Make sure that gates are open so they have a way to exit your yard. Sadly, there's nothing else you can do.
- **ALLIGATORS AND SNAKES** – It seems silly that we would have to warn people to stay away from them but sometimes curiosity gets the best of people. Keep your distance. If you need help identifying a snake to find out if it's venomous, call us and we can help. We can also refer you to a professional who can assist with the removal of snakes. For help with alligators, we recommend you call your Game Warden. To find the Game Warden for your area, go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

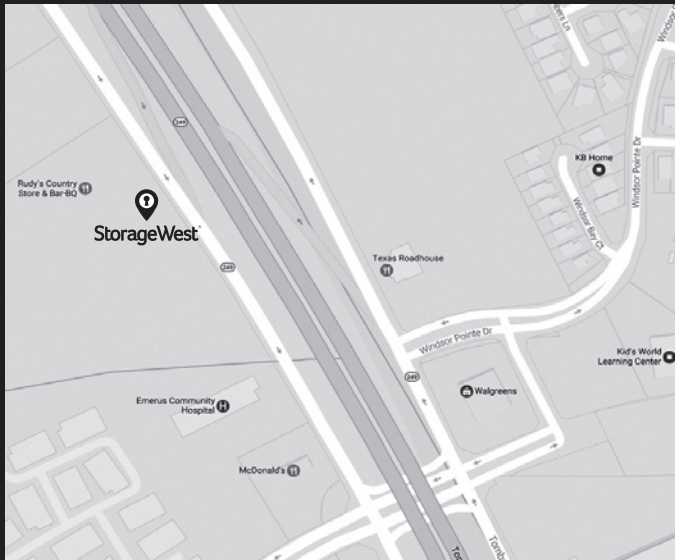
It is baby squirrel season right now and in the case of these animals, your intervention may be needed. If you find a baby, you will first need to try to reunite the baby with its mother. You can do this by placing the baby in a small container near the area where you found it. Make sure the container is safe from dogs and cats. Watch to see if mom comes to get her little one. If, after a couple of hours, the mom has not returned, you will need to intervene. The most important thing is to keep the baby warm. You can accomplish by placing the baby in a box along with a soft cloth and place the box on a heating pad set to low. Do NOT attempt to give the baby food or water. Bring the baby to TWRC Wildlife Center as soon as possible.

Chances are very low that you will encounter any other wildlife babies at this time of the year. You may encounter injured adult raccoons, opossums and birds, however. We advise that you do not try to rescue these animals. Their intention is not to hurt you but they may bite or scratch because they are afraid.

If you have questions about wildlife, we are available from 10am to 2pm to help you. Before attempting to rescue an animal and before bringing it in to us, we suggest you give us a call first. After hours, our website can provide you with many answers.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time.

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MARKET REPORT FOR AUGUST 2017***

Homes SOLD to date 2017	2
Avg Days on Market	90
Avg Sales Price	\$193,125
Average List Price vs	
Sales Price Ratio	91%
*Data is from HAR for 8-1-17 through 8-31-17	
As of September 1, 2017:	
Homes Currently for Sale	13
Price Range	\$189,900 - \$320,000
Homes Under Contract	7
Option Pending	2
Price Range	\$210,500 - \$259,000
Pending Sales	-
Price Range	-
Pending	5
Price Range	\$219,750 - \$299,900

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