



Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

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Consumer Connection: Break the ice with steps to combat winter weather

Topeka, Kan. – As Kansas faces yet another round of winter weather, it is a good time to remind yourself of some simple steps to help prevent damage to your home from the ice and snow. Homeowners and renters' insurance policies could protect against common winter damage, so be sure to contact your agent to review your policy and ensure you are covered for potential winter-related damages to your home or property.

"It is important to take precautionary steps and winterize your property to protect against freezing temperatures," said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. "If you are a victim of winter weather damage, contact your insurance agent right away."

The Kansas Department of Insurance recommends taking the following precautions to help prevent winter weather damages:

- **Protect your pipes from freezing** by detaching garden hoses and winterizing your irrigation systems. When temperatures drop drastically, have your faucet slightly drip and leave your under-sink cabinet doors open, especially with pipes near outer walls.
- **Have your furnace inspected** annually. Make sure to change out your HVAC filters as directed on its package.
- **Seal potential leaks** by insulating your home or apartment to keep winter chill outside. Check seal on attic, plumbing vents, and recessed lights.

If you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, please contact the Kansas Department of Insurance's Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071 or email KDOI.complaints@ks.gov.

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*The Kansas Department of Insurance was established in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to **regulate** companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, **educate** consumers about all things insurance and securities, and **advocate** for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.*