



May 9, 2009

ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN: INVESTIGATORS WILL BE MONITORING AND CHECKING REPORTS OF PRICE GOUGING IN WAKE OF SEVERE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS STORMS

Carbondale — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today said that investigators from her office are monitoring retail prices and reports of extreme fluctuations or price gouging after severe storms tore through the region Friday.

"I have already heard a report of an elderly woman paying someone \$3,100 to remove a fallen tree. Unfortunately, some callous people are already taking advantage of the situation," Madigan said.

Madigan assured area residents that her investigators will investigate any reports of price gouging.

"Residents of Southern Illinois should not be subjected to price gouging for necessities at a time of natural disaster," continued Madigan.

Consumers suspecting fraud can call Attorney General Madigan's Consumer Fraud Hotline at the following numbers:

(800) 243-0607 (Carbondale)

(800) 243-0618 (Springfield)

(800) 386-5438 (Chicago)

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