

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Totaled Vehicles Need Proper Title

CHEYENNE — In light of recent severe hail storms and resulting damage to vehicles, Wyoming Department of Insurance Commissioner Tom Glause is reminding Wyomingites to obtain proper title for automobiles that are declared to be a total loss by an insurance company or when an insurance company is not involved but the vehicle sustains damage that is greater than 75% of its actual retail cash value. The vehicle owner or the insurance company, if it obtains ownership of the vehicle through transfer of title as a result of an insurance claim settlement, must forward the properly endorsed certificate of title to the county clerk with an application for a certificate of title branded “salvage” and payment of a \$15.00 fee to obtain the properly branded certificate of title. The county clerk will issue a certificate of title branded “salvage” to the legal owner upon receipt of the proper application and fees. Under Wyoming law, failure to obtain the properly branded title is punishable as a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine up to \$750.00, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

Commissioner Glause advised consumers to be aware of the title status of their vehicles and the proper title for vehicles they might be purchasing. Unfortunately, consumers may overlook the need to have a properly branded title on vehicles they may be retaining after an insurance settlement has been reached. “Failure to have properly branded titles can have serious consequences,” said Glause.

Consumers can call the Wyoming Department of Insurance at 1-800-438-5768 or submit information on the department’s website at: <http://www.doi.wyo.gov>. If you have questions about insurance, please can call the department at 1-800-438-5768 or 307-777-7401.