

DON'T GET SOAKED BUYING A FLOOD-DAMAGED VEHICLE



In the wake of last year's floods, consumers shopping for a new or used vehicle are urged to be cautious of dishonest businesses and individuals who may try to sell flood-damaged vehicles without revealing the vehicle's history.

Potential scammers are refurbishing these flood-damaged vehicles and selling them to consumers without the consumers knowing the full damage of the vehicles. Because of the floods in the Northeast and those resulting from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, vehicles that have been under water for weeks, even months are now on the market. Vehicles that have been under water can have serious mechanical or electrical problems that would not be visible at the time of purchase. Bacteria and mold may also cause health problems for the buyer.

TIPS FOR THE CONSUMER **HOW NOT TO GET SOAKED WHEN** **SHOPPING FOR A VEHICLE**

- **Take a test drive.**
- **Inspect the vehicle inside and out.**
- **Ask questions to learn as much as you can about the vehicle. (Include question(s) about flood-damage). The consumer should have the seller sign a written statement containing the information.**
- **Check out the seller:**
 - For *dealers*, contact the SCDCA, and**
 - For *individuals*, check the title to make sure you are dealing with the actual vehicle's owner.**
- **Read and understand every document you are asked to sign.**

