

## **Could Flooded Cars Flood Indiana Marketplace?**

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INDIANAPOLIS -- Thousands, perhaps millions, of cars and trucks were flooded during Hurricane Katrina.

Officials are concerned some of those vehicles could be passed off on the used market as unharmed.

Insurance companies send damaged or flooded cars to Indiana Auto Storage Pool for storage, inspection and possible re-sale.

Mike Reynolds, of Indiana Auto Storage, said he had not seen any vehicles from the Gulf Coast yet, but stressed a flooded car is something to take seriously when considering a purchase.

"If you see moisture inside the headlight or instrument it's a pretty good sign it was a flood car," Reynolds said.

The Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association estimated that 1.2 million vehicles were flooded in that state alone.

Attorney General Steve Carter is concerned some of those flooded vehicles could trickle into the Indiana marketplace.

"It's very important to inspect any used car, especially when we are subject to getting flooded areas from the southern part of the U.S.," Carter said.

The state already alerts consumers about troubled vehicles by requiring titles to disclose flooded or salvaged cars.