

D-10-17-01

Date: October 03, 2017
Bulletin: All Dealers and Tag & Title Services
From: Business Licensing and Consumer Services
RE: Flood Damaged Vehicles

With the recent hurricanes and mass flooding, please be on the lookout for vehicles that have been damaged by flood waters, and for titles that have been altered to hide flood damage.

Vehicles that have been damaged by flood waters should be labeled as salvage (marked as a total loss), and the titles should reflect the salvage state of the vehicle.

There are several ways to protect your business from receiving or processing “altered titles” for salvage vehicles.

- Verify the VIN history – Before processing any titles or accepting any vehicles, verify the VIN history to determine if the vehicle may have been in a flooded area during the time period when flooding occurred. Use one or more of the below listed sources to verify the vehicle history. Please note that some of the sites offer free services, while other sites will charge a fee for their services.
- Pre-Purchase Inspections – Before purchasing any vehicles, opt for a pre-purchase inspection to ensure that you are receiving vehicles that have had no prior damage and, most importantly, no flood damage.

Vehicle Verification Resources

1. National Insurance Crime Bureau https://www.nicb.org/theft_and_fraud_awareness/vincheck
2. National Motor Vehicle Title Information System https://www.vehiclehistory.gov/nmvtis_vehiclehistory.html
3. Vehicle History <https://www.vehiclehistory.com/>
4. CarFax <https://www.carfax.com/>
5. AutoCheck <http://www.autocheck.com/vehiclehistory/?siteID=0>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (410) 787-7950 or email mvablcscd@mva.maryland.gov.