



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE LARAMIE COUNTY CLERK

Date: August 16, 2018

Contact: 307-633-4264

Major hail damage to your car? You may need a salvage title

The Laramie County Clerk's office has received numerous calls from residents concerned about facing misdemeanor charges if they fail to get salvage titles for vehicles damaged in recent hail storms.

County Clerk Debra Lee said the possibility of a misdemeanor charge under Wyoming law only applies if the vehicle has a current Wyoming title, is model year 2011 or newer, and has damage exceeding 75% of the vehicle's retail cash value. Vehicles older than eight years are not required to have a salvage title and the requirement does not apply to commercial vehicles or trailers.

To get a salvage title, the owner of the vehicle or insurer is required to have a letter from the insurance company stating the vehicle is a total loss or has sustained damages from hail exceeding 75% of the retail cash value. The original title and a letter from the insurance company letter need to be mailed or delivered to the county clerk's office that issued the title. If the vehicle has a lien, the owner may need to contact the lienholder or financial institution to obtain the title.

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Residents whose leased vehicles were damaged in the recent hail storms have 30 days to notify the lessor of any damage to the vehicle. The lessor will then apply for a branded title by providing the original title and a letter from the insurance company stating the vehicle is a total loss or has sustained damages from hail exceeding 75% of its retail cash value. The title and insurance letter must be sent to office issuing the original Wyoming certificate of title.

Wyoming law requires damage exceeding 75% of the vehicle's retail cash value to be disclosed. Lee said the purpose of the law is to protect consumers by alerting a potential buyer if a motor vehicle has been deemed a total loss by an insurance company.

If you have additional questions and your hail-damaged vehicle was titled in Laramie County, please call the Clerk's Titles department at (307) 633-4247. If your vehicle was titled in a different Wyoming county, you may contact the clerk's office in that county.

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