



**New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, Automotive Association (NJGCA)**

*(Formerly New Jersey Gasoline Retailers Association)*

66 Morris Avenue – Suite 1E

Springfield, NJ 07081

973-376-0066 | [www.njgca.org](http://www.njgca.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sal Risalvato, Executive Director

Office: 973-376-0066

Cell: 201-745-1914

January 31, 2013

**MVC, Consumer Affairs right to educate buyers on flood, salvage cars**

*Joint MVC, Consumer Affairs program will keep damaged, defective cars off roads;  
Consumers should have any vehicle purchase checked with a professional mechanic;  
If unsure about mechanics' qualifications, potential auto-consumers should call NJGCA  
to be referred to a reputable auto-technician that can help.*

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (**NJGCA**), released the following statement after today's joint MVC, Consumer Affairs press conference:

“Superstorm Sandy ravaged our state and our communities only a few short months ago. Following the storm, we all knew that it was going to take months and years to fully recover from the devastation. Yet how many residents and consumers would even have considered that the effects of Sandy would extend to buying a car?” Risalvato asked.

“Many vehicles were lost during the storm due to flooding, debris damage, and related factors. In fact, MVC has stated that over 13,000 flood- and salvage-titled vehicles have been processed since the end of October. That's a massive increase and puts a lot of damaged cars out there for possible sale. Though many of these vehicles may seem like they are in good condition today, most are not suitable for typical use. Rather, damaged and flooded vehicles can be sold for mechanical, body, or structural parts”, said Risalvato.

In an effort to educate consumers, the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission and Division of Consumer Affairs have established a partnership to put potential customers on notice of

vehicles damaged during Hurricane Sandy. The partnership will utilize a database to identify cars which sustained flood- and other types of damage. The database is available online at [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/floodedcars](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/floodedcars)

“Earlier today, General Chiesa, Chief Martinez, and Director Kanefsky launched this resource to help potential buyers find out all the facts before making a purchase. In doing so they not only cited the new internet database, but strongly encouraged consumers to get any automobile they are considering checked out by a reputable, licensed mechanic – and I agree with them”, said Risalvato.

“Having a vehicle checked out and inspected by a professional auto technician is a good idea anytime someone is buying a used vehicle. It’s the only way to find out all there is to know about any possible issues that exist. However, after Hurricane Sandy massively increased the inventory of flood- and salvage-titled cars, it makes even more sense. A vehicle may be in deceptively ‘good shape’ but secretly harboring any number of hidden problems. Wouldn’t you want to know what you’re really buying?” Risalvato asked.

“Of course, not everyone has a trusted, regular mechanic or knows an honest shop in their neighborhood. How does a consumer find a reputable mechanic? Where can you go to find good service? If motorists and consumers are worried about finding professional, qualified automotive shop, I encourage them to call our offices at 973-376-0066 so that we can put them in touch with one in their area”, said Risalvato.

“Purchasing a car – whether new or used – is a major purchase. In this economic climate, every dollar counts and customers are weary. To avoid inheriting a headache or shelling out additional dollars post-purchase for costly repairs, consumers must have access to good information and reliable professionals. I applaud General Chiesa, Chief Martinez, and Director Kanefsky for empowering New Jersey’s car-buying public with the tools they need to do just that” Risalvato concluded.

####