Price Gouging Law in Effect Following State of Emergency Declaration

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Attorney General Buddy Caldwell reminds citizens and businesses that Louisiana price gouging laws are in effect following the state of emergency declaration from Governor Bobby Jindal as a result of conditions created by Tropical Storm Isaac.

Price gouging occurs when a seller prices merchandise much higher than is reasonable or fair. The price gouging statute prohibits the raising of prices above the pre-emergency levels unless there is a national or regional market commodity shortage. This means that sellers of gasoline and petroleum products, hotels, motels, and retailers are prohibited from raising prices during this state of emergency unless they incur a verifiable spike in the prices they have to pay as part of doing business. The price gouging laws carry both civil and criminal penalties.