



## OMVIC Bulletin – October 2005

### **Registry of flood-damaged vehicles now available**

Dealers are urged to be wary of flood-damaged vehicles that may make their way north from areas hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It's estimated that hundreds of thousands of vehicles have been damaged by flood water in the Gulf Coast.

Although most of these vehicles will have obvious signs of damage, there is still a chance that some of them will be dried out and resold. There's also a chance that some of these vehicles will wind up in the Canadian marketplace and in the hands of unsuspecting dealers.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) in the U.S. has dispatched teams to Louisiana and Alabama to identify and catalogue vehicles damaged by Katrina. The data is being compiled into a searchable database for use by the public.

**The vehicles catalogued to date can be accessed through the bureau's database which is now available on its web site, [www.nicb.org](http://www.nicb.org).**

Given that not all vehicles from the Gulf Coast will be captured in the database, the NICB offers the following advice to help detect flood-damage:

- Inspect the vehicle for water stains, mildew, sand or silt under the carpets, floor mats, headliner cloth and behind the dashboard.
- Have a certified mechanic inspect the vehicle.
- Check the vehicle's history. Ask whether it was in any accidents or floods.
- Inspect the title and ownership papers for any potential or questionable salvage fraud.
- Conduct a title search of the vehicle.
- Look under the hood for signs of oxidation. Pull back rubber boots around electrical and mechanical connections for these indicators:
  - Ferrous materials will show signs of rust
  - Copper will show a green patina
- Aluminum and alloys will have a white powder and pitting.

Carl Compton, Executive Director and Registrar