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Authorities arrest contractor suspected of \$500,000 worth of fraud

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The Louisiana Attorney General's Office has arrested a man suspected of defrauding homeowners in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Charles parishes out of \$500,000.

Dana Abboud, owner of AB Coastal Construction Inc., was arrested on three counts of felony theft related to contractor fraud in Orleans Parish. A hold was placed on him for 17 counts of felony theft related to contractor fraud and 17 counts of forgery in Jefferson Parish. He was also charged with one count of felony theft related to contractor fraud in St. Charles Parish.

Authorities suspect that Abboud told homeowners who were repairing their Hurricane Katrina-damaged homes that AB Coastal Construction would send checks from their insurance companies to the mortgage companies.

However, Abboud allegedly forged the names of the mortgage companies on the checks and deposited them into AB Coastal Construction's checking account.

In addition, Abboud and his company allegedly performed little or no repair work after the company received payment.

Abboud has also been charged by Florida authorities with contractor fraud and has been linked to alleged fraudulent construction activity in Nebraska, Missouri and Texas.
