FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Disaster Tools for Gulf Coast Homeowners Before, During and After the Storm

BuildSOS CEO Andy Kruger is available for live interviews as tropical weather threatens communities from Southeast Texas across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle.

UNITED STATES — October 8, 2026

A tropical weather system is producing dangerous conditions along the Gulf Coast, with heavy rainfall, strong winds, coastal flooding and storm surge threatening communities from Southeast Texas through Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. BuildSOS is making its free disaster-preparedness, response and recovery tools available to homeowners who need practical guidance before, during and after the storm.

The BuildSOS Resilience App organizes disaster navigation into three phases — Prepare, Respond and Recover — with more than 30 guided missions. Homeowners can document their property, store insurance policies and emergency plans, build a family communication circle, locate nearby shelters, identify their NOAA weather radio station, and work through recovery steps after damage occurs.

The Disaster AIDVisor App gives homeowners a place to ask questions based on where they are in the disaster cycle: preparing before impact, making decisions while conditions are deteriorating, or working through recovery afterward. The Policy AIDvisor App helps homeowners understand insurance coverage, deductibles, limits, exclusions and potential gaps so they can ask better questions before and after a loss.

“People need different information at 48 hours before impact, at 2 a.m. during a flooding event, and two days afterward when they are trying to document damage and figure out what comes next,” said Andy Kruger, CEO of BuildSOS. “Our goal is to give homeowners one place to navigate all three phases without having to figure it out from scratch while they are under pressure.”

Practical Interview Topics for This Storm

• What homeowners should document now before water or wind damage occurs.

• What to do during the storm when flooding, power loss, evacuation orders or shelter decisions change quickly.

• How to organize photos, documents and insurance information immediately after damage.

• How to understand policy language and prepare for an insurance claim.

• How to avoid post-disaster contractor fraud and identify qualified help.

• How families can use free digital tools to move from preparation into response and recovery.

Recent Television Appearance

Kruger recently appeared on FOX 11 in Reno during the Hawk Fire to discuss disaster preparedness and free community resources. **Watch the FOX 11 Reno interview:** https://youtu.be/yLMazXzXMrw

Current Storm Context

The National Weather Service is monitoring a tropical weather system producing significant impacts across the Gulf Coast region, including storm surge, coastal flooding, high winds and heavy rainfall. Residents from Southeast Texas through the Florida Panhandle are urged to monitor local forecasts and have a plan before, during and after the storm.

One More Thing: Know Who to Call After the Storm

After major storms, homeowners can face a second crisis: fraud. Unqualified or out-of-area contractors may arrive quickly, demand deposits and disappear. BuildSOS helps homeowners navigate recovery and connects users with a nationwide community of credentialed contractors focused on resilience and responsible disaster-recovery work.

“The recovery window is when people are exhausted, displaced and under pressure to make expensive decisions quickly,” Kruger said. “That is exactly when homeowners need better information, better documentation and a clearer way to identify who they can trust.”

About Andy Kruger

Andy Kruger is the CEO of BuildSOS and a recognized voice in the disaster resilience field. He serves as President of the Foundation for Community Resilience in New Orleans and as a board member of Smart Home America, a national nonprofit advancing stronger residential building standards. He sits on a University of Houston advisory board focused on AI-powered disaster assessment and contributes to federal insurance policy through the National Catastrophe Insurance Working Group (CSFI / GNO Inc.).

In October 2026, Kruger will join a keynote panel at the Resilient City Expo in Houston on unlocking funds, resources and engagement for resilient cities, alongside former FEMA resilience executive David Maurstad and leaders from AccuWeather and other resilience organizations.

About BuildSOS

BuildSOS grew out of the recovery challenges following the 2016 Louisiana floods. Today it is a disaster-preparedness and home-resilience platform serving a nationwide community of more than 5,300 contractors. Its tools — including the Resilience App, Disaster AIDVisor, Policy AIDvisor and Resilience Playbook — are designed to help homeowners and communities prepare, respond and recover with clearer information and stronger support. The BuildSOS Resilience, Disaster AIDVisor and Policy AIDvisor Apps are available free for iPhone and Android.

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