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### Missouri AG Warns of Price Gouging During Drought and Heat

The Attorney General's Office is warning Missourians of people taking advantage of the drought and overcharging for work like drilling or deepening wells, or repairing air conditioning systems. Chris Koster says the Governor contacted his office. (play audio :29 “of emergency.”)

While Koster says some instances have been reported of well drillers charging exorbitant prices in Northwest Missouri, he wants Missourians statewide to be on guard. (play audio :35)

When is a higher price the product of increased demand or other factors, and when is it exorbitant? Koster says that's a question his office spent a lot of time considering after the Joplin tornado. (play audio :30)

With the drought likely to continue for some time, Koster says there's likely to be more of this kind of price gouging.

Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency on July 23rd and also made \$7 million in state funds available to help farmers with drilling and deepening water wells, or expanding their irrigation systems.

Anyone who suspects an instance of price gouging related to the drought should contact the Missouri Attorney General's office at 1-800-392-8222.

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