



State of Connecticut

Insurance Department

THOMAS R. SULLIVAN
COMMISSIONER

OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

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Prepared for a Flood?

Melt off and heavy rains lead consumers to consider flood insurance.

The Connecticut Insurance Department and Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) are pleased to support The National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA)-sponsored 2008 National Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 17-21.

Floods threaten homes from coast to coast - and they can happen anytime, anywhere and without warning. Many homeowners mistakenly believe that their homes and property are protected from flood damages by maintaining traditional homeowners' insurance- but they are not! Unfortunately, most people do not learn this important fact until they are faced with a devastating loss. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that between 20-25% of all flood claims are outside an identified floodplain.

The Nor'easter of April 2007 resulted in individual and public damages exceeding \$9 million, according to DEMHS. Through the National Flood Insurance Program, consumers can purchase up to \$250,000 of coverage on the structure of their home. Consumers interested in flood insurance should act quickly, as it takes 30 days for a flood policy to become effective.

"Houses near a river or the shore are not the only homes at risk of flooding," Commissioner Thomas R. Sullivan said, "it is important for homeowners to learn their risk and evaluate their coverage needs."

"We should all be looking at our risk to flooding and take the appropriate actions to mitigate against it and consider purchasing flood insurance so you are protected in the event that it does occur. By purchasing this protection, a homeowner remains in control of replacing their damaged property in the event of a flood. An affected homeowner does not have to wait for a Presidential Declaration of disaster to submit a claim and begin the recovery process," said Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Commissioner James Thomas.

Before snowmelt and spring rains bring the potential for flooding, the Connecticut Insurance Department and Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security suggests all homeowners and renters review their flood insurance needs. Contact the National Flood Insurance Program at www.floodsmart.gov or call (800) 427-4661 for more information about flood insurance. Connecticut consumers with questions about any insurance issue are

encouraged to call the Connecticut Insurance Department at (800) 203-3447 or (860) 297-3900 for assistance.

ABOUT THE CONNECTICUT INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Connecticut Insurance Department is to serve consumers in a professional and timely manner by providing assistance and information to the public and to policy makers, by regulating the insurance industry in a fair and efficient manner which promotes a competitive and financially sound insurance market for consumers, and by enforcing the insurance laws to ensure that consumers are treated fairly and are protected from unfair practices. For more information, visit the Connecticut Insurance Department at www.ct.gov/cid.

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