

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny Emphasizes Importance of Flood Insurance Knowledge and Training to Insurance Agents

Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny spoke to insurance agents gathered in Keene on Thursday about a variety of insurance topics, including the importance of educating their customers about flood insurance.

The Keene meeting was one of four events scheduled at different locations around the state by the Independent Insurance Agents of New Hampshire, an industry group. In his remarks the Commissioner also discussed new Insurance Department regulations that require agents to participate in flood insurance training as part of the Department's continuing education requirements to maintain an agent license.

"We are working in concert with the Independent Insurance Agents of New Hampshire and FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to make sure New Hampshire licensed insurance agents know all about the National Flood Insurance Program, and relay that knowledge to their customers. As part of the Insurance Department's overall consumer education initiative, we want to do all we can to ensure New Hampshire residents know they can buy flood insurance to protect their property, regardless of where they live in the state as long as their community adheres to FEMA requirements," said Commissioner Sevigny. He went on to say, "We don't ever again want to see unprotected New Hampshire property owners go through another year like this one without knowing they can purchase flood insurance. No one needs to be unprotected from the risk of loss caused by flooding. Flood insurance is affordable and you don't need to live in a flood zone to purchase it."

In addition to Keene, the Commissioner recently addressed agents on this issue in Bedford, NH, and will again be speaking to agents in Portsmouth at the Portsmouth Country Club on June 27, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., and in North Conway at the Red Jacket Resort on June 29, 2006 at 9:00.

"I look forward to these upcoming speaking opportunities to emphasize to our licensed agents the importance of counseling customers about flood insurance, and about our commitment to ensuring that New Hampshire agents are properly trained and well informed about the National Flood Insurance Program," said

Commissioner Sevigny. Sevigny also said "We are committed to doing all we can to get information on flood insurance, and important information on all types of insurance products, to the public. A well informed consumer is more likely to be a well protected consumer," said Sevigny.

Consumers looking for additional information on flood insurance or any other insurance product are urged to visit the NH Insurance Department's web site at www.nh.gov/insurance, or call the Department's toll free Consumer Hotline at 1-800-852-3416.

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ABOUT THE NH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

The first insurance regulator in the US, the NH Insurance Department was created in 1851 and charged with enforcing and administering New Hampshire's insurance laws. The department, an agency of the executive branch of New Hampshire state government, conducts safety and soundness and market conduct examinations of licensees, licenses insurance companies and insurance producers, reviews premium rates and policy forms, provides assistance, information and referral services to New Hampshire insurance consumers, and administers the filing and collection of New Hampshire's insurance premium tax. For more information, visit the Insurance Department's web site at: www.nh.gov/insurance.