

# PRESS RELEASE

21 South Fruit St, Suite 14, Concord, NH 03301 – 603-271-2261 – [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance)

## For Immediate Release

## Media Contact:

Keith E. Nyhan

[keith.nyhan@ins.nh.gov](mailto:keith.nyhan@ins.nh.gov)

603-271-2261

603-271-1406 - FAX

**NH Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny reminds New Hampshire residents that New Hampshire has experienced major flooding in recent years and urges the consideration of flood insurance protection.**

**Concord, NH – April 24, 2012** –New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny expressed concern that with spring rains upon us, many New Hampshire residents may not have sufficient insurance protection. When floods hit New Hampshire in the spring of 2006 and 2007 thousands of homes were affected by flooding. In 2006 alone, 25 homes were destroyed, 235 homes suffered serious damage, and 4,896 homes had less serious damage. The flooding that year was the state’s most expensive natural disaster in more than 50 years. Damage to public infrastructure alone as a result of the May 2006 flooding totaled near \$15 million.

Sevigny urges New Hampshire residents to consider the purchase of flood insurance, and reminds New Hampshire residents of the following:

- Homeowner insurance does not cover flood losses
- Anyone can purchase flood insurance, regardless of where the property is located, as long as your hometown is a National Flood Insurance Program community.
- Your home does not need to be within a specific flood zone to qualify for National Flood Insurance.
- Most homeowners, businesses and renters can purchase flood insurance.
- You can purchase federal flood insurance through your local insurance agent
- You can purchase federal flood insurance even if your mortgage lender doesn’t require it
- You can purchase flood insurance even if your property has been flooded before
- Flood insurance needs to be purchased at least 30 days prior to a flood loss
- An accurate home inventory is essential to maximizing claim coverage

Commissioner Sevigny reminds the public that “Only 50% of those in high risk areas nationwide are insured against flooding. This is a federal government program designed

to protect you against catastrophic loss, and you can't count on federal aid to make you whole without a flood insurance policy. ”

Additional information about flood insurance can be found on the New Hampshire Insurance Department's web site [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance), or at the FEMA flood insurance site for consumers, [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov)

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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 website at: [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance)**