Industry Alert 2013-1

Winter Storm of February 9, 2013

The Department has declared the Winter Storm of February 9, 2013 a catastrophic event for purposes of R.I. Gen. Laws § 27-10-8 and 27-10.1-1. As a result of that declaration, the emergency adjuster and motor vehicle damage appraiser licensing statutes are triggered. The Department offers the following guidance to all licensees:

**Procedures on Emergency Adjusters and Motor Vehicle Damage Appraisers**

Insurers or adjusting/appraising entities concerned about their ability to service Rhode Island policyholder claims that may arise as a result of this storm are directed to follow the notice requirements in Insurance Bulletin 2005-14 for both adjusters and motor vehicle damage appraisers. Please separately identify emergency adjusters and emergency motor vehicle damage appraisers in your notice to the Department. Questions on emergency adjuster and/or motor vehicle damage appraiser procedures should be directed to emergencyadj@dbr.ri.gov (please insert “Emergency” in the subject line) or by telephone at (401) 462-9520. Public adjusters (those representing consumers) are not eligible for emergency licensing.

**Insurer Obligations**

Insurers should consult and follow the instructions in Insurance Bulletin 2011-5 and the 2012 enactment of R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 27-76-1 et seq. Additional information on the implementation of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 27-76 will be forthcoming. In the interim, insurers are reminded that pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §27-76-6 no insurance policy or contract covering damages to personal lines residential property may be cancelled or nonrenewed, nor may the premium for such a policy be increased solely as a result of inquiries or claims made under the policy which resulted in no loss payout or resulted in a loss payout of less than five hundred dollars ($500). The provisions of this section shall not apply where more than one non-catastrophic claim is made under the policy in a three (3) year period which resulted in any loss payout.

**Department Updates**

Licensees are required to closely monitor the Department's Web site for the latest Bulletins and Alerts. Updates to procedures related to this storm will also be provided through the Department’s Twitter account. You may follow us on Twitter @RIBRInsu for updates. Licensees are also encouraged to be included on our interested parties list to receive e-mail notifications of all Department updates. Any
person who is not currently on our interested parties list should send an email request to insnotice@dbr.ri.gov.

Questions on this alert may be directed to Paula Pallozzi, Chief Property & Casualty Insurance Rate Analyst at paula_pallozzi@dbr.ri.gov or by telephone at (401) 462 9616.

Joseph Torti III
Superintendent of Insurance
February 12, 2013