



PRWeb: Weather





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Vision Clarity is Critical for Safety on the Slopes -- Anti-Fog Protection Helps Keep Goggles Fog-Free

A clear, fog-free view is a critical safety issue for skiers and snowboarders. The National Ski Patrol puts sunglasses and goggles at the top of their equipment checklist for skiers and snowboarders. [Anti-fog for goggles](#), sunglasses and eyeglasses is an important part of staying safe on the slopes.

Valley View, Ohio (Vocus) December 10, 2009 -- News of the winter's first heavy snowfalls is filling weather reports. As snowsports fans pack for the season's first trip, they should be sure to include everything they need for visual clarity on the slopes.

The ability to clearly see the trail, hazards and fellow snow-lovers is a critical safety issue. The National Ski Patrol puts sunglasses and goggles at the top of their equipment checklist for skiers and snowboarders. Eyewear is vital for preventing flying snow and ice from obscuring vision during a high-speed descend, and it protects a skier's eyes from twigs or debris. Sunglasses block UV rays that can cause vision damage.

For many, the eyewear that's meant to improve vision can actually hinder sight because of fogging problems. "You work up a sweat on the mountain, and that can really fog up goggles and sunglasses," comments John Swett of Nanofilm, maker of Clarity Defog It™ [anti-fog](#). "Anti-fog spray or towelettes are actually a safety accessory to help keep goggles and glasses fog-free, which helps skiers and snowboarders stay safe."

Here's a checklist for vision safety on the slopes:

- Wear goggles to protect vision. Look for goggles with venting that can help prevent fogging. Some goggles also have anti-fog features like coatings or multiple layers of lenses.
 - Fog-proof your sunglasses and eyeglasses. Your eyewear can fog up even if your goggles are fog-free. So remember to use an anti-fog spray or anti-fog towelette on them.
 - Give new life to "fog-free" goggles. If you own goggles that aren't supposed to fog, but do, an application of an anti-fog treatment like Clarity Defog It can clear things up.
 - Carry anti-fog in your pocket or gear bag. When you're standing at the top of the hill, it's no time to find out you can't see. Says Nanofilm's Swett, "A reusable Clarity Defog It towelette or .5-oz liquid applicator fits anywhere for easy anytime use."
 - Keep a fog-free view when you head for the chalet, too. Wear eyeglasses? Going from slope temperatures to a toasty fire can fog up lenses. Use an anti-fog so you can see all the fun.
- Remember, impaired vision is more than a hassle on a great down-hill run. It can be a serious safety hazard. Keep your vision protected, clear, and fog-free and you'll be looking at a safer adventure.

Used by the military around the world in vision-critical situations, the formula of Clarity Defog It anti-fog liquid and Clarity Defog It anti-fog towelettes is safe and effective on all optics and can keep them fog-free up to all day with one application. The product is available at Wal-Mart Vision Centers and Amazon (www.amazon.com). Three reusable towelettes in a plastic carrying case are \$7.49 (MSRP). A half-ounce bottle of the all-in-one cleaner and anti-fog liquid is \$4.99 (MSRP). More information is available at www.nanofilmproducts.com or by



calling 1-888-ENDS-FOG.

Nanofilm, founded in 1985, is a global optical leader in lens care and coatings. Millions of people around the world use Nanofilm products, including Clarity Clean It™, Clarity Defog It™ and other lens care products, as well as nanotechnology-enabled coatings.

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Contact Information

Lynn Lilly

Nanofilm

<http://www.nanofilmproducts.com>

216-702-5167

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Paul Davis Restoration Offers tips to Property Owners Regarding Preventing Frozen Pipes

With the arrival of winter, the number of incidents of water damage as a result of pipes breaking due to sub-freezing temperatures increases. Paul Davis Restoration, Inc. offers the following advice and tips on how to prevent frozen pipes during this time of year.

Jacksonville, FL (Vocus) -- With the arrival of winter, the number of incidents of water damage as a result of pipes breaking due to sub-freezing temperatures increases. Paul Davis Restoration, Inc., a national franchise company and leading provider of [fire and water damage clean up and restoration](#) services for residential and commercial properties, offers the following advice and tips on how to prevent frozen pipes during this time of year.

According to J. "Sonny" Bass, Paul Davis Restoration's Technical Director of Emergency Services, frozen pipes cause millions of dollars in damage to homes and buildings each year. "Any time the temperature drops below 32 degrees, there is the potential risk of pipes freezing, particularly indoor pipes located in poorly insulated areas such as the attics, crawl spaces and basements," said Bass. "Significant water damage can occur if broken pipes are not caught quickly. This can be a potential problem, particularly when people are away from their homes during the winter season."

Frozen pipes can be prevented by following a few basic steps. Paul Davis Restoration has developed the following list of prevention measures used to advise customers during the winter months.

- Remove garden hoses from faucets.
- Let cold and hot water faucets drip during freezing weather.
- Cover exposed exterior pipes with foam rubber or fiberglass insulation and secure with tape.
- If the property will be vacant for a long period of time, leave the thermostat at the same temperature both day and night, at least 55°F.
- Cover exterior faucets with insulation.
- Locate the main water shut off valve so you can find it in an emergency.

"Prevention is the key and is well worth it to avoid water damage due to a broken pipe," said Bass. "Damage from broken pipes typically goes undiscovered for long periods of time and repairs usually run into the thousands of dollars as a result," he said.

For property owners that own vacation homes, rentals or lending institutions that might have several foreclosed properties, more complete "winterization" services to protect properties may be required. In general, winterization typically refers to sealing, draining, wrapping, and adding anti-freeze chemicals to prevent freezing of water, which ultimately causes breakage of pipes. Because of the specialized services required for this procedure, Bass recommends that property owners hire a company that specializes in performing winterization services using full-time technicians who are certified by The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification

(IICRC).

In the event of a broken pipe, it is critical to act quickly. Water from a broken pipe can add up to thousands of gallons in a very short time. It is likely that by the time the damage is discovered, entire rooms are flooded and walls are becoming wet. Bass recommends the following:

- Shut off the main water valve immediately.
- Call a licensed, professional water damage clean up company.
- Mop up standing water on flooring surfaces, if possible.
- If the burst pipe is overhead, drain ceiling cavities by punching “weep” holes.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to promote warm air circulation.
- Locate the frozen pipe and open a faucet.

“If you do experience water damage from a frozen pipe, time is truly of the essence. Delaying the start of emergency clean up and restoration procedures can result in a drastic increase in the cost and complexity of the water loss,” said Bass. “Talk to a professional in the water damage restoration service industry as soon as possible.”

Paul Davis Restoration, Inc. is a leading provider of fire and water damage clean up, restoration, and reconstruction services for residential and commercial properties. The company also provides remodeling services for kitchen and bath remodeling and room additions. Founded in 1966, Paul Davis Restoration has franchise office locations throughout the US. Visit the website at www.pdrestoration.com .

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**Contact Information****Malcolm Stone**

Paul Davis Restoration

<http://www.pdrestoration.com>

904.737.2779

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Blinds Chalet Introduces Greenguard Certified SilverScreen & AlumaScreen Roller Shades

These aren't your grandmother's roller shades. Blinds Chalet introduces two roller shades that deserve an extra look.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) December 10, 2009 -- These aren't your grandmother's roller shades. Blinds Chalet introduces two roller shades that deserve an extra look.

SilverScreen Roller Shades offer the classic lines of a roller shade with improved temperature and draft control, providing thermal comfort in both summer and winter. Roller shades give UV protection and almost disappear when rolled up. SilverScreen Roller Shades offer increased solar energy using a revolutionary technique that coats the exterior side with aluminum.

AlumaScreen 5% Solar Screen Roller Shades diffuse UV rays, control light and reduce glare. Made of 100% recycled screen fabric, AlumaScreens are woven then coated to protect the fabric and resist deformation. Blinds Chalet's roller shades offer contemporary and traditional options for a more stylized home design.

Aside from sensory appeal, roller shades offer the following benefits:

- limits eye-straining glare, providing visual comfort
- maintains view-through
- improves temperature and draft control
- 5% open fabric
- Greenguard Certified - for low emitting interior building materials, furnishings, and finish systems. All GREENGUARD Certified Products have been tested for their chemical emissions performance

"We're constantly bringing our consumers the latest in window blinds designs," says Chris Stanley of Blinds Chalet.

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at [info\(at\)blindschalet\(dot\)com](mailto:info(at)blindschalet(dot)com) or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840. Or visit Blinds Chalet online at www.blindschalet.com.

Contact: Chris Stanley
Company: Blinds Chalet
www.BlindsChalet.com

Phone: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840

Email: [info\(at\)blindschalet\(dot\)com](mailto:info(at)blindschalet(dot)com)

###



Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.BlindsChalet.com>

888-633-7840

Online Web 2.0 Version

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Travel Insurance Plans from Travel Insured Provide Best Defense Against Trip Disruptions from Holiday Season Winter Storms

A major winter storm raced across country from the Rockies to the Midwest and Northeast in early December and served as an early warning. Winter is here and travel insurance, such as Travel Insured's Worldwide Trip Protector line of plans, is the best defense against unplanned, costly holiday season travel expenses.

(PRWEB) December 10, 2009 -- Early December is the chill down to winter but this year's first big snow and ice storm of the 8th and 9th of the month was an early warning. Mother Nature was not waiting until the official winter solstice to get the new season started. Travel Insured International (www.travelinsured.com) recommends that winter travelers not wait either to purchase a travel insurance plan as their best defense against unwanted, costly disruptions that winter storms may bring to their travel itineraries.

The four plans under the Worldwide Trip Protector brand of travel insurance offer a broad range of coverage to protect prepaid, non-refundable trip costs and provide reimbursement of unforeseen expenses incurred due to winter storm-related trip disruptions. Here is a snapshot of the Travel Insured coverage available:

Trip Cancellation:

All of Travel Insured's four types of Worldwide Trip Protector plans provide coverage up to the full trip cost when a winter storm causes complete cessation of the insured's common carrier for at least 24 hours.

Trip Interruption:

Travel Insured's Worldwide Trip Protector plans, depending upon the specific type plan selected, can provide up to 100%, or up to 150%, of the non-refundable prepaid trip cost when a mandatory evacuation is ordered by local authorities due to a storm or other natural disaster.

Cancel for Any Reason:

This option is available when purchased with either a Worldwide Trip Protector Gold or Worldwide Trip Protector plan. The coverage enables the insured to cancel for any reason, including fear of traveling in a winter storm, up to 48 hours prior to the scheduled departure date, and receive up to 75% of non-refundable trip costs.

Trip Delay:

Travel Insured International reimburses insured travelers for covered expenses when their trip is delayed by a covered hazard for a minimum of 6 or 12 hours depending upon the selected plan. Covered hazards may include a common carrier delay caused by disruptive winter weather, or an accident en route to a scheduled departure. The coverage can also reimburse unused, non-refundable land or sea arrangements.

Missed Port of Call / Change of Itinerary:

Travel Insured in most plans can reimburse up to \$200 to \$700, depending on the selected plan, for the cost of any prepaid, non-refundable activity on their itinerary from which they are prevented from participating due to an unscheduled change of itinerary, often due to weather, by their cruise line or tour operator.



Missed Connection:

Travel Insured provides Missed Connection coverage when a common carrier delay, including for inclement winter weather, causes the insured to miss a cruise or tour departure. The cancellation or delay of scheduled flights must be for a minimum of three or six hours, depending upon the type of plan selected. The coverage can reimburse transportation expenses to join the trip, as well as the unused, non-refundable portion of the trip, and reasonable accommodation and meal expenses.

Baggage Loss or Delay:

Airline bags tend to be delayed longer or even lost when winter storms disrupt the air transportation system. Baggage and Personal Effects coverage, as well as Baggage Delay, are included in all plans at a choice of maximum coverage depending upon the type of Worldwide Trip Protector plan selected.

About Travel Insured International

Travel Insured delivers comprehensive travel protection benefits ranging from trip cancellation and trip interruption to emergency assistance and Medevac insurance, travel accident and sickness medical expense, accidental death and dismemberment, missed connection and baggage delay or loss.

The company's travel insurance plans include its comprehensive [Worldwide Trip Protector, the most popular travel protection plan](#) and [Worldwide Trip Protector Gold](#), an enhanced travel insurance plan designed to protect luxury vacations and business trips. Travel Insured also offers two travel insurance plans designed to provide basic yet flexible protection for families and budget conscious travelers, its Worldwide Trip Protector Lite insurance plan and Worldwide Trip Protector Lite Expanded insurance plan. Finally they offer an Airline Ticket Protector plan as well as a complete offering of Group Travel Insurance plans including Student Group insurance plans.

Visit Travel Insured's web site at www.travelinsured.com or speak to a friendly, knowledgeable Travel Insured customer care professional at 1-800-243-3174.

Travel Insured International, based in East Hartford, Connecticut, was founded in 1993 by the foresight of insurance industry executive Peter Gehris when he acquired the travel protection division of the Travelers Insurance Company. Coverage is underwritten by Arch Insurance Company (a Missouri corporation, NAIC #11150) with executive offices located in Jersey City, NJ. Not all insurance products or coverage is available in all jurisdictions. Coverage is subject to actual policy language.

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Contact Information

John Stone

Travel Insured International

<http://www.travelinsured.com>

1-800-243-3174

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Usm and Planalytics Discuss Snow's Impact on Holiday Shopping

Planalytics Chief Meteorologist, Jeff Doran, and USM Certified Snow Professional, Sean Hartnett, discuss the outlook for the holiday season and how weather-driven demand intelligence in conjunction with best practices in snow & ice removal can be incorporated into planning, distribution, marketing, pricing and the decision making processes.

Norristown, PA (PRWEB) -- On a day-to-day basis, weather is the most volatile external factor influencing consumer and market behavior. And, because weather is constantly changing, businesses must deal with a continuously shifting array of opportunities and risks. The impact on revenues, costs and a company's brand image is substantial. Planalytics Chief Meteorologist, Jeff Doran, and USM Certified Snow Professional, Sean Hartnett, discuss the outlook for the holiday season and how weather-driven demand intelligence in conjunction with best practices in snow & ice removal can be incorporated into planning, distribution, marketing, pricing and the decision making processes.

To download this on-demand presentation, please visit:
<http://www.brainshark.com/usmservices/holidayshopping?text=mediarelease>

Contact:
Deb Yorkman
Director, Marketing & Communications
USM, Inc.
610.313.2839

Six of the top ten national retailers partner with USM to uphold a consistent brand image and improve their customers' in-store experience through facilities maintenance and management solutions. USM delivers non-core, yet mission critical interior and exterior facility services to over 80,000 client sites throughout North America in various industries with geographically dispersed assets including retail, restaurants, banking, real estate investment trusts, education, telecommunications, and utilities. www.usmservices.com

For more information on Planalytics the single global resource for Business Weather Intelligence®, please visit www.planalytics.com

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Contact Information

Deb Yorkman

USM

<http://www.usmservices.com>

610-313-2839

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Enhancing Online Shopping Experience for Swimwear, Bikinis, and Beachwear this Summer is more than having the right Swimwear Fashion

A commitment to enhancing customer's online shopping experience has been paramount to Watersun's ladies swimwear online store, and new benchmarks in customer service are set daily. Having some of the most desirable designer, bikinis, swimsuits, and tankinis in the latest styles; sized from skimpy triangles through to larger cup size, even including maternity swimwear and plus swimwear, is the bonus for lovers of swimwear 2010.

Melbourne, Australia (PRWEB) December 1, 2009 -- The latest Watersun [Swimwear](#) Summer Collection is online. Stylish, sexy, bikini swimwear, separates, bold, seductive, swimsuits, and exquisite cover-ups, with superior fit, and up to the minute styling, once again being the mainstays for the brands popularity.

Truly setting the scene in fashion swimwear this 2010 summer in Australia, Watersun has been recognised by having 2 of the Top 20 Vogue Swimsuits.

In addition there has been endless editorial coverage this spring season from leading fashion magazine editors, including being photographed on top models, former Miss Australia Erin McNaught and Perth born Pania Rose, for Australia's premier swimsuit editorial shoot in Cleo Magazine - November.

The Watersun Swimwear Online Store offers a mix-and-match, swimwear separates for customers to make their own [bikinis](#) online shopping experience, which allows customers to select the size(s) that's perfect in any of the key styles this season including structured, moulded wireless booster bikinis tops, skimpy sliding triangle and larger cup sized underwire support bikini tops, tankinis and much more.

Watersun's 'perfect fit guarantee' - an exchange/returns policy that lasts 365 days, adds further comfort to the discerning online shopper worried about receiving something that doesn't fit. Further to this guarantee the Company strives to post all orders same day from its warehouse in Melbourne, Australia to assure its customers of a speedily delivery for both national and international customers.

Log on to Watersun to see the latest stunning high-fashion images and runway videos and get serviced this summer when looking for swimwear.

About [Watersun](#) Swimwear:

For over 40 years, Watersun Swimwear has been an industry leader when it comes to providing consumer with premium luxurious swimwear and beachwear cover-ups. The store's online division has been servicing lovers of its fine swimwear for over 18 months. The store specialises in providing customers with an enjoyable experience in purchasing swimwear.

Ask for 'service' if you like or just follow Watersun on [Twitter](#).

Watersun would also be happy for you to become a fan on [Facebook](#)



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Contact Information

Paul Peterson

Watersun Swimwear

<http://www.watersun.com>

+61 (0)3 9463 1400

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During the Busy Holiday Season, Retailers Turn to USM

It's that time of year when masses of people hit the stores to embark on the journey of holiday shopping. For most customers, the biggest concern may be finding the best sale; however, the retailer has to consider much more than just merchandise to keep shoppers satisfied. The modern retail experience has become about more than just buying products. It's about the feeling the customer gets from being in your store. A brand involves a promise to customers to offer not only a quality product, but also provide a safe and enjoyable shopping experience. This can be especially challenging during the holiday season, trying to satisfy a large volume of shoppers on a daily basis.

Norristown (PRWEB) December 9, 2009 -- It's that time of year when masses of people hit the stores to embark on the journey of holiday shopping. For most customers, the biggest concern may be finding the best sale; however, the retailer has to consider much more than just merchandise to keep shoppers satisfied.

The modern retail experience has become about more than just buying products. It's about the feeling the customer gets from being in your store. A brand involves a promise to customers to offer not only a quality product, but also provide a safe and enjoyable shopping experience. This can be especially challenging during the holiday season, trying to satisfy a large volume of shoppers on a daily basis.

Among the opportunities a retailer has to keep its brand top of mind during the holiday season is the store image itself. This includes all aspects of the facility - from floor to ceiling, roof to door. From the outdoor landscape to the indoor air quality. It's all important. It all creates an impression, and the first impression is often the last one.

In comes the Integrated Facility Management Solutions Provider (I-FM). An I-FM is responsible for the management and maintenance of every retail site nationwide. Not only does an I-FM offer brand consistency across all sites, but they provide retailers a single resource to manage the facilities brand - ensuring that strategic operations goals are met across all sites, critical business factors such as short and long term energy efficiency plans are in place, budgets are fixed and site conditions remain accommodating, comfortable and appropriately lit.

USM (formerly US Maintenance) is among the nation's most trusted integrated facilities maintenance and management providers. Serving 6 out of the top 10 retailers nationwide, USM has developed fully integrated and exterior and interior programs for its more than 200 clients across North America. And during the holiday season, USM maintenance professionals and site specialists are at their most needed.

Aside from hanging interior and exterior holiday displays and creating a comfortable and well light store environment, winter weather is another major factor that requires special attention. Snow and ice can be dangerous to both customers and employees. An example of one such unplanned snow crisis occurred during the past New Year's holiday at one of the nation's largest discount superstores in their Flagstaff, Arizona store. In less than 24 hours, they had to remove more than 30 inches of snow from the site in order to comply with local safety codes. They turned to USM, as the incumbent exterior facilities solution provider, to help sustain a safe environment for customers as well as protect the brand image. Additionally, snow on the roof this deep would



have meant temporarily closing the store over the New Year's holiday, which would have cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue and potentially significant roof damage.

"Closing their doors would have been detrimental," said Shaun Levenson, Chief Strategy Officer for USM. "If they were to close for one day during the holiday season, it would result in more than \$200,000 in lost revenue, not to mention the inconvenience to customers and damage to their reputation."

USM assessed the 100,000 square foot rooftop that was buried in almost three feet of heavy snow and ice. There were several obstacles to consider to ensure the snow was removed safely without putting customers, employees or USM staff in danger. Weight distribution while removing the snow had to be carefully planned and organized with engineers, or the risk of causing a collapse or damaging the structure was as likely as if the snow was left on the roof.

Experienced project management teams and quick response units mobilized the site within just a few hours. Within 12 hours, more than 75 USM contractors were actively removing snow from the roof. USM also worked with the retailer to identify areas where snow drifts could significantly impact the recorded weight capacity of the roof to ensure these areas were also taken care of.

As a result, the store was able to stay open for shoppers during the New Year's holiday while averting the risk and liability of a total roof collapse. Avoid holiday season meltdown. Take the risk out of the facility management and guarantee a safe, cost-effective and innovative I-FM strategy this year.

For more information please visit usmservices.com.

To see how else snow can impact the holiday shopping season, please visit:
www.brainshark.com/usmservices/holidayshopping.

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Contact Information

Katy Krause

USM

<http://www.usmservices.com>

610-941-4222

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The Reefs, Bermuda, Debuts 68 Degree and Sunny Guarantee

With off-season rates and good weather guaranteed, this winter is the perfect time to get a great value on a vacation to Bermuda's best hotel.

Southampton, Bermuda (PRWEB) December 9, 2009 -- Winter weather is on its way to many parts of the world, but balmy spring-like temperatures are what visitors find in Bermuda. In fact, Bermuda's best hotel guarantees it with [The Reefs'](#) 68-Degree and Sunny Guarantee.

Escape the harsh realities of freezing temperatures and mounting snowfalls to the secluded pink sand beach, luxurious accommodations and signature personal service at The Reefs.

In effect from January 2 through March 15, 2010, The Reefs' [68-Degree and Sunny Guarantee](#) rewards guests if the weather is good or bad.

* If the temperature fails to reach 68 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius), guests will automatically receive 20 percent off of all beverages for the day.

* If the sun is shining at 10 a.m., guests will receive a certificate for 10 percent off any one spa treatment at La Serena Spa valid for that day only.

The Reefs' 68-Degree and Sunny Guarantee is in addition to any existing special offer.

Temperature is based on the Bermuda Weather Station's high reading from the day before. The 20 percent beverage discount is valid for all soft drinks and alcoholic beverages including a special hot toddy menu, but excludes bottles of wine.

At 10 a.m. each morning between January 2 and March 15, 2010, The Reefs' town crier will ring a bell on the patio of Ocean Echo and declare whether the sun is shining or not. If it is sunny, every guest at The Reefs will receive a 10 percent discount certificate for the new La Serena Spa for use that day based on availability. La Serena Spa features a relaxation room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, a holistic approach, customizable spa services and eight treatment rooms including a dual massage suite.

With off-season rates and warm weather, this winter is the perfect time for a Bermuda vacation at a great value at The Reefs.

Widely recognized as Bermuda's best hotel, The Reefs was honored with [four major awards](#) in 2009 alone. Most recently, The Reefs was named the number one resort in the Atlantic in the 22nd Annual Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards. This marks the first time a Bermuda resort has topped the list.

For reservations or information, call (888) 466-0288 or visit TheReefs.com/68andSunny.

About The Reefs Hotel & Club

Crowning a limestone cliff overlooking a secluded pink sand beach, The Reefs Hotel & Club attracts travelers



who seek a Bermuda vacation in an intimate atmosphere with fine dining and personal service. With only 65 guest accommodations, The Reefs is consistently recognized as one of the world's best hotels from leading travel industry publications including Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure.

In 2009, The Reefs opened The Reefs Club, 19 luxurious, fully furnished two- and three-bedroom beachfront residences available for purchase on a fractional ownership basis. Like The Reefs, The Reefs Club delivers exceptional service and offers unobstructed ocean views from each private residence including from every bedroom.

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Contact Information

Julie Harper

The Reefs, Bermuda

<http://www.TheReefs.com>

757-645-3113

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Blinds Chalet Encourages Smart Gifts This Holiday Season

Blinds Chalet urges consumers to consider window blinds as a gift this holiday season. Giving a “smart gift”, like one that is an investment in home improvement, is a gift that will last. Not to mention the fact that updating window blinds and shades can add value to your home and also potentially offer energy savings.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) December 8, 2009 — Blinds Chalet urges consumers to consider window blinds as a gift this holiday season. Giving a “smart gift”, like one that is an investment in home improvement, is a gift that will last. Not to mention the fact that updating [window blinds](#) and shades can add value to your home and also potentially offer energy savings.

Many of the home-related purchases for the holidays will be in electronics like televisions, surround sound systems, computers, kitchen appliances, etc. Window blinds can actually be a better investment. In many cases window blinds will cost less than those typical purchase and last longer.

Chris Stanley suggests, “Typically the holiday season is a slower time in our industry, therefore you can find some great deals.”

Blinds Chalet is offering the following [window blinds sale](#) items:

- Free cordless lift on select Roman shades
- Free hobbled fold on Asante Roman shades
- Buy 3 Get 1 Free on Summit 2” [Wood Blinds](#) and Premier ¾” Translucent Single Cell Shades
- Free Edge Binding on Woven Wood Shades
- Free Top Down Bottom Up option on Popular Honeycomb Cell Shades, etc.
- \$50 rebate on select insulating blinds

For a full list of the current deals, visit the Blinds Chalet website: www.BlindsChalet.com.

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at info (at) blindschalet (dot) com or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840.

Contact: Chris Stanley
Company: Blinds Chalet
1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840
info (at) blindschalet (dot) com

#



Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.BlindsChalet.com>

1-888-633-7840

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A success Story on Padma Resort Bali's Rebranding Exercise Through Collaboration with Compass Edge

Through Compass Edge's consultative advices and deploying a new booking engine suited for resorts, Padma Resort Bali has experienced a 200% increase in both bookings and revenue in the first three month of launch.

(PRWEB) August 12, 2009 -- Acclaimed as a five-star art sanctuary, Padma Resort Bali is a serene paradise under the dancing shadows of the renowned Legian sunset. Previously known as Hotel Padma Bali, the property is rebranded as Padma Resort Bali at Legian. With countless collections of superb quality artworks within the environment, art and creativity is the main idea behind the new Padma Hotels and Resorts brand.

To showcase the new brand concept, a new website was developed and launched in August 2009 by [Padma Resort Bali](#). In addition, a new internet booking engine was deployed through [Compass Edge Pte Ltd](#) at the same time.

“We were a bit worried in the beginning,” Chantel Choa, Director of Compass Edge, reported. “The website is completely new, the domain name has changed and the actual name of Padma has changed from ‘hotel’ to ‘resort’. We all know these may have negative impact on search engines organic search results.”

Nonetheless, through Compass Edge’s consultative advices and deploying a new booking engine suited for resorts, Padma Resort Bali has experienced a 200% increase in both bookings and revenue in the first three month of launch. “The result is exceptional. Padma Resort Bali had good production from its website before the rebranding exercise and doubled what they did before means very good incremental revenue for the property,” Choa added.

Tjipjanto Soerjanto, General Manager at Padma Resort Bali commented, “It excites me to learn that the internet market for Padma Resort Bali is growing quite significantly. We have been rather creative with special web promotions like Stay-Pay Program, Early Bird Promotion, etc. In addition, the features and user-friendly navigations of both our new website and internet booking engine help viewers in their accommodation selection process.”

In addition to Padma Resort Bali, many of [Compass Edge’s hotel clients](#) also see immediate results utilizing Compass Edge’s Central Reservation Systems (CRS) for Global Distribution Systems (GDS) Seamless Connectivity, Internet Booking Engine (IBE) and Internet Distribution Systems (IDS). “Nowadays, almost every hotel or resort has a website, doing some SEO activities and has an internet booking engine. At Compass Edge, we work with our hotels to maximize the benefits of the systems; like take advantage of the many merchandizing features and pricing controls that will provide them with a competitive edge. We are a strong believer of our consultative approach and we hope to see success stories from all of our hotel clients,” Chantel said.

For more information about Compass Edge solutions, please visit [Compass Edge Pte Ltd](#).

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**Contact Information****Anita Chan**

Compass Edge Pte Ltd

<http://www.compass-edge.com>

852-3428 4890

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Barclays Local Business Responds to Flood Crisis

Responding to the implications of the recent flooding across areas of the UK, Barclays Local Business has today announced that it will be offering a financial support package to all of its affected business banking customers.

(PRWEB) December 8, 2009 -- Responding to the implications of the recent flooding across areas of the UK, [Barclays Local Business](#) has today announced that it will be offering a financial support package to all of its affected business banking customers.*

The package will allow businesses time to recover from the immediate impact of the flooding, or to bridge the gap until [insurance](#) claims are settled. It will include repayment holidays on existing and new [loans](#), and extending overdraft facilities.

Steve Cooper, Managing Director, Barclays Local Business Banking: “Events such as these can have a devastating effect on business continuity and at Barclays we are committed to helping our customers through these difficult times.”

“Our customers should contact their relationship manager as soon as they can to discuss how we might support them with concrete measures that meet their needs and help ease the pain a little.”

Notes to Editors:

*All business loans and overdraft facilities are subject to meeting existing credit criteria.

About Barclays

[Barclays](#) is a major global financial services provider engaged in retail banking, [credit cards](#), corporate banking, investment banking, wealth management and investment management services, with an extensive international presence in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. With over 300 years of history and expertise in banking, Barclays operates in over 50 countries and employs over 140,000 people. Barclays moves, lends, invests and protects money for over 49 million customers and clients worldwide. For further information about Barclays, please visit our website www.barclays.co.uk.

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Contact Information

Press Office

Barclays

<http://www.barclays.co.uk/business/>

+44 (0)20 7116 4755

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Song From Movie, Hurricane Season, Helps Rebuild New Orleans

Proceeds from the sale of "Be On Our Way" on the Apple iTunes Store Benefit Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation.

Los Angeles, CA (PRWEB) December 8, 2009 -- As part of the ongoing efforts of multi-platinum composer/producer [Frank Fitzpatrick](#) and his NGO [EarthTones](#) ("Healing the World Through Music"), a new campaign is underway for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Fitzpatrick brought together a group of like-minded artists (including Grammy Award winner Van Hunt, New Orleans' born rapper Supervision, Buku Wise and singers from the original Hidden Faces) to help him create "[Be On Our Way](#)", the featured song from Forest Whitaker's new film, "Hurricane Season".

"Hurricane Season" is based on the true and inspiring story of Al Collins (Whitaker), a high school coach, who pulls together an unlikely group of high school basketball players - many left homeless and disenfranchised by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Against all odds, the young men learn the true meaning of survival and team spirit that carries them on to win the Louisiana State Championship. "Hurricane Season", stars Forest Whitaker, Isaiah Washington, Courtney B. Vance, and rappers Bow Wow and Lil' Wayne.

When Fitzpatrick learned director Tim Story (Barbershop, Fantastic Four), and the Weinstein Company were making the film, he felt inspired to create both the song and an opportunity that could help people of the Lower Ninth Ward, who are still trying to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of one of the worse disasters in American history. After recording the song, Fitzpatrick joined forces with the Apple iTunes Store to promote and release the single, and reached out to Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation, to be the recipient of the proceeds.

Make It Right is committed to building 150 sustainable, affordable homes in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, incorporating high-quality design and construction while preserving the spirit of the community's culture. The Lower Ninth Ward was one of the most devastated areas of New Orleans due to Hurricane Katrina. Brad Pitt, Make It Right's Founder, hopes that this project will be a catalyst for recovery and redevelopment throughout the Lower Ninth Ward and across the city of New Orleans. For more information on the Make It Right Foundation, please visit www.MakeItRightnola.com.

"Be On Our Way" pays homage to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and the spirit of New Orleans in a stylized "Curtis Mayfield meets Tupac-like" blend of soul music and socially conscious rap. "Be On Our Way" is also an expression that means to pick up the pieces and carry on, even in the face of challenge or hardship. Fitzpatrick's hope is that the song, the film and the campaign can help the affected families do just that.

"Be On Our Way" (Van Hunt, featuring Supervision, Buku Wise and singers from the original Hidden Faces) will be released by [Hip Hop Connect](#) exclusively through the Apple iTunes Store on December 8, 2009, the same day that the movie, "Hurricane Season" directed by Tim Story and starring Forest Whitaker, will come out on DVD. Earthtones is donating 100% of the net proceeds from the sale of "Be On Our Way" to Make It Right.

About EarthTones:

EarthTones is a California 501c3 non-profit arts organization committed to raising social consciousness and



connecting people across the globe through the power of music and media. It uses revenues generated from corporate sponsors, sales and donations to develop multimedia projects with a positive intention to bring about social change. The organization is founded by multi-platinum producer/composer/filmmaker Frank Fitzpatrick.

CONTACT:

Jon McBride,
EarthTones
jon (at) earthtones (dot) org

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Contact Information

Jon McBride

EarthTones

<http://www.earthtones.org>

310-444-9367

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Lawns By Yorkshire, Steven Jomides, Addresses The New Jersey Community Association Institute on Innovative And Economical Landscaping Methodologies

With an emphasis on client return on investment and landscaping as an important financial asset, Steven Jomides, of Lawns By Yorkshire, addresses the New Jersey Community Association Institute.

Westwood, New Jersey (Vocus) December 8, 2009 -- Westwood based award winning Lawns By Yorkshire (www.lawnsbyyorkshire.com) Chief Executive Officer, Steven Jomides, addressed the New Jersey Community Association Institute (www.cainj.org) focusing on providing clients with a positive return on investment by utilizing the latest innovations in technology, best-management practices and intelligent economical methodologies in order to maximize their landscape investment, which is a valuable real estate asset for any community. Since 1988 Lawns by Yorkshire has provided Green and sustainable landscape and snow services throughout New Jersey and New York to several communities.

Lawns By Yorkshire serves multiple markets including multi-family, HOA's, office parks, retail and shopping centers, school and corporate campuses, municipalities and industrial complexes. The company has been recognized as one of the nation's leaders in snow removal services serving some of the most complex facilities in the Northeast. The Community Association Institute (CAI) is a national, nonprofit association created to educate and represent America's 205,000 residential condominium, cooperative and homeowner associations and related professional and service providers. The Institute is dedicated to fostering vibrant, responsive, competent community associations that promote harmony, community and responsible leadership. The Community Association Institute also awards professional designations for association managers, works on legislative issues of national importance, researches subjects related to community associations and publishes an extensive library of books, periodicals and brochures related to the industry. CAI has more than 17,000 members in 58 chapters throughout the United States and in several foreign countries.

“The Community Association Institute is a cutting-edge professional association dedicated to empowering its members and stakeholders by providing them with a premier educational experience that enables them to grow and succeed as professionals. I was honored to be asked to speak, and am proud to be a part of such a forward-thinking group of people. At Lawns By Yorkshire we are more than landscapers, we're landscape investment advisers and it's our job to help the community increase the value of the landscape,” stated Jomides. An active environmental steward, Jomides and Lawns By Yorkshire utilizes ecologically sound landscaping principals at all of their community sites.

About Lawns By Yorkshire:

Founded in 1988, Lawns by Yorkshire, headquartered in Westwood New Jersey is an award winning landscape and snow removal leader dedicated to serving the needs of general contractors, developers, property and facility managers, owners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, athletic directors, and municipal authorities in multiple industry segments by providing a seamless service portfolio of economical, sustainable and comprehensive landscape solutions. As a recognized industry leader, Lawns by Yorkshire provides state-of-the art equipment and a credentialed team of landscape professionals who focus on best management practices, customer experience and return on investment. The company provides a portfolio of professional services including



landscape maintenance, landscape installation, water management, irrigation, tree-care and snow services to the multi-family, retail, corporate, industrial, school and corporate campuses, hotel and hospitality, senior living and commercial markets in New Jersey and New York. With its roots sown deeply into the community, Lawns by Yorkshire has a corporate stewardship and scholarship program that donates a portion of its earnings back to helping the communities it serves. Visit www.lawnsbyyorkshire.com for more information.

Press contact:
Judith M. Guido
(818) 800-0135

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Contact Information

Judith Guido

Lawns By Yorkshire

<http://www.lawnsbyyorkhire.com>

818-800-0135

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News Image





Paul Davis Restoration Offers Holiday Safety Tips to Consumers

With the approach of the holiday season, it is important to remember to take steps to protect loved ones and property from the risk of fire. Paul Davis Restoration offers the following advice and tips that can help protect homes and families during this joyous time of year.

Jacksonville, FL (Vocus) December 7, 2009 -- With the approach of the holiday season, it is important to remember to take steps to protect loved ones and property from the risk of fire. Paul Davis Restoration, Inc., a national franchise company and leading provider of [fire and water damage clean up and restoration](#) services for residential and commercial property, offers the following advice and tips that can help protect homes and families during this joyous time of year.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, each year there are more than a hundred thousand residential structural fires in the month of December alone causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. By taking time out to do some planning and preparation you can ensure this holiday season is a safe one.

J. "Sonny" Bass, Paul Davis Restoration's Technical Director of Emergency Services, encourages everyone to make safety awareness a regular part of their holiday planning. "The holiday season is exciting, however decorative displays, cooking for large groups and other activities can also increase the risk of harm," said Bass. "An increase in indoor activities during the holidays combined with entertaining family and friends and shopping can cause many to forget some basic safety measures," he said.

Paul Davis Restoration is committed to promoting safety in all communities where we work and live. Below are tips we all should include in our safety planning during the holiday season.

Holiday Decorations. Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted candles on a tree, near other evergreens or other flammable materials. Consider reducing the number of candles used during the holidays or eliminating them all together – especially where children are present. Place candles where they will not be knocked down.

Lights. Check all tree lights before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. Be sure not to overload electrical outlets with holiday lights.

Trees. When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree and fill the stand with water to keep it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Fire Escape Plan. The holidays are a good time to review your fire escape plan with your family. Make sure everyone understands the escape routes and where to meet once outside. Also, conduct a "fire drill" to practice

your escape plan.

Smoke Alarms. Make sure your home smoke alarms are in proper working order by pushing the test button. Change the batteries at least once a year.

Fire Extinguishers. Make sure there is a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen, laundry room, and garage and that it is capable of putting out all three types of fires. If you don't know how, learn how to use it.

Fireplace/Chimney. Be sure your fireplace and chimney have been inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open. Do not burn gift wrapping paper, boxes, etc. in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as these items will ignite quickly and burn intensely.

According to Bass, additional tips include keeping a list with all of the important phone numbers that you, your family, or a babysitter are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national poison help line. "Implementing the proper safety measures can help prevent personal injury and property damage. If you have questions, talk to a professional in the restoration and emergency mitigation service industry," he said.

"In the unfortunate event that you experience property damage to your home or business due to fire, contact a licensed, professional [fire damage clean up and restoration](#) company as soon as possible. Delaying the start of this work, can result in additional cost and stress during the holidays," said Bass.

Paul Davis has been a leader in residential and commercial loss mitigation, reconstruction, and restoration services since 1966. As a national full-service restoration expert, Paul Davis Restoration has franchise office locations throughout North America. Visit the website at www.pdrestoration.com.

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Contact Information

Malcolm Stone

Paul Davis Restoration

<http://www.pdrestoration.com>

904.737.2779

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Webinar Teaches Construction Professionals How to Schedule Weather Contingencies to Avoid Delay Claims and Maximize Compensable Delays

Weather plays a significant role in the planning and execution of a construction project. A new webinar by WPL Publishing will dissect the strategies needed for handling weather contingencies to create a successful CPM construction schedule and contract and avoid delay claims.

Washington, D.C. (PRWEB) December 7, 2009 -- When it comes to planning for predictable as well as unpredictable weather contingencies, construction contractors and project owners need to know how to beat Mother Nature at her own game, or at least work around her. Knowing how to schedule these factors in relationship to the critical path can be the difference between receiving a compensable delay versus a non-compensable time extension.

In a new webinar by WPL Publishing -- "Strategies for Weather Planning in Construction Schedules" -- nationally recognized construction consultants Michael Stone and Chris Carson and their panel of scheduling experts will discuss how to draw up a contract and schedule that account for weather contingencies. They will enumerate the strategies necessary to deliver the best possible outcome when weather conditions hinder a project and time extensions and delay claims enter the equation. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/weathercontingencies>.

In addition, during this 90-minute presentation on Wednesday, Dec. 17, Stone and Carson will discuss:

- * How early/late start, critical path and float calculations are affected
- * The best method to employ when using distinct weather activities
- * How weather factors into float sequestration
- * Geographical considerations and sources of historical weather data
- * Different outcomes with different scheduling software

This webinar is a don't-miss event for construction professionals, schedulers, engineers, architects, owners, contractors, subcontractors and the attorneys who represent them.

This presentation is an excellent source of in-house training for the entire staff. And, because webinar tuition is based on location, not number of participants, each registration site can have multiple participants for one low price. An audio CD of the presentation, as well as all handouts, is also available for purchase. To learn more about the webinar and to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/weathercontingencies> or call (301) 765-9525.

Michael E. Stone, PMP, PSP, is president of Professional Project Management Services. During his more than 26 years in the construction industry, Stone has been the contractor's project manager, the engineer's representative and for the past 10 years, the owner's representative on major facility projects. His experience includes work on process plants, material handling / shipping terminals, airport civil work, roads and highways, utilities and municipal water and wastewater facilities.

Chris Carson, PSP, CCM, is corporate director of project controls for Alpha Corporation, a multi-state professional consulting firm. Carson manages a team of schedulers, analysts, project managers and trainers, providing construction management services specializing in scheduling, schedule analysis, claims avoidance and



claims preparation and defense. He has more than 35 years of experience in scheduling and construction management of all types of construction projects as well as infrastructure and civil/site work.

WPL Publishing Co. Inc. produces four construction newsletters: Construction Project Controls & BIM Report (www.projectcontrols.com), Construction Claims Advisor (www.constructionclaims.com), Green Building Insider (www.greenbuildinginsider.com) and Construction Advisor Today (www.constructionadvisortoday.com). It also hosts webinar series on topics relevant to the construction industry. WPL is on Twitter at CAT_Online.

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**Contact Information****Barbara Bauer**

WPL Publishing Co. Inc.

<http://wpl.net>

301-922-6521

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While Experts Announce Predictions For A Milder Winter Ahead, Norseman Restaurant and Walkerlake Resort Maintains An Optimistic Outlook For 2010 Tourism

Environment Canada experts have recently predicted that they expect that the warmer than normal fall temperatures and the arrival once again of El Nino will translate into a warmer and drier winter ahead for Ontario's cottage country. Although this is worrying for many tourist-centered establishments, Norseman Restaurant and Walkerlake Resort has announced that they expect that with the many activities, attractions and area events available this winter, the warm weather should impact cottage country's tourism industry only minimally.

Huntsville, Ontario (PRWEB) December 7, 2009 -- Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips has recently announced his prediction that we could be in for a mild, dry winter. Phillips has stated that the unseasonably mild temperatures that we have been experiencing this fall will most likely continue into the winter, since it is an El Nino year. El Nino, which turns up every three to seven years, typically brings milder temperatures, drier conditions and less snow. This prediction could mean trouble for those businesses in Ontario's winter tourism industry that solely rely on cold temperature and abundant snowfall. However, as noted by Norseman Restaurant and Walkerlake Resort, past years have demonstrated that many Ontario resort owners have found ways to attract winter customers to their properties regardless of snow conditions. Norseman Restaurant and Walkerlake Resort (<http://www.norseman-walkerlake.com>) insists that there will be enough events and activities taking place this winter, that a lack of snow should only have a minimal overall impact on Ontario cottage country's tourism industry.

While the past two winters in Ontario have been colder, receiving and with more snowfall than normal, the winter of 2006/2007 will go down on record as one of the mildest ever. Although extremely mild weather winter forced closures and layoffs at snow hills and some larger resorts, many Muskoka and Haliburton area resorts reported little or no reduction in winter business. This is perhaps due to greater consumer awareness of the Muskoka region and all that it has to offer visitors throughout the year. As well, there has been a steady increase in the area's infrastructure and the number of tourism-driven attractions, activities and special events available. Fine dining is a primary driver for many vacation getaways. Special event menus and wine tastings are a big attraction and can be marketed as the centre piece of a vacation package. With many possible alternatives to skiing and snowmobiling for attracting visitors, this year's anticipated mild weather is not much of a concern for some Ontario winter resorts.

At the year-round Algonquin Park area cottage resort, Norsemen Restaurant and Walker Lake Resort (<http://www.norsemen-walkerlake.com>), owner Les Gayne reports that winter bookings and business continues as usual. "In the past, lack of snow has not had a major impact on our business," states Gayne. In years when there hasn't been a lot of snow, guests seem to enjoy themselves every bit as much because there is so much to see and do in Muskoka and nearby Algonquin Park. Mild weather means guests might be able to walk and bike along the many area trails. I believe that people can be enticed out of the city whether there is snow here or not. Not everyone wants to go skiing or snowmobiling and not everyone likes snow. No matter what the weather, people simply enjoy getting away to a beautiful lakeside location to take pleasure in the beauty of nature. Many come to enjoy a romantic getaway or a family weekend. In our case, we have a fabulous chef and we offer exceptional



gourmet dining packages along with our well stocked wine cellar. People often travel from Toronto for the dining venue alone. Realistically, we are located in Ontario's snow belt and even if we don't receive the normal amount of snowfall, we are bound to get enough to still satisfy the winter sports enthusiasts," adds Gayne.

Although climatologist Dave Phillips anticipates a milder winter ahead, he cautions that we should not judge an entire coming season from the spectacular weather that we have been experiencing this fall. According to Phillips it's a "crapshoot", a less than scientific prediction of Ontario's winter ahead. What is for certain, with global warming and changing weather patterns, Ontario winter resorts need to diversify and adapt so that they are not solely reliant on the weather to keep their accommodation occupancies up during the winter months.

Contact Information:

Les & Suzi Gayne
Norsemen Restaurant and Walker Lake Resort
1040 Walker Lake Drive
Huntsville ON P1H 2J6
(705) 635-2473
(800) 565-3856 Toll free
info(at)norsemen-walkerlake(dot)com
www.norsemen-walkerlake.com

About Norsemen Restaurant and Walker Lake Resort: Located near Algonquin Provincial Park and the town of Huntsville in the Muskoka Lakes - Lake of Bays region of central Ontario, Norseman Restaurant & Walker Lake Resort is an intimate four season cottage resort with seven secluded lakefront cottages and fine dining on the shores of pristine Walker Lake. Famous for its gourmet restaurant and Muskoka wedding receptions, this Algonquin resort, offers superior cottage rental accommodations, many onsite amenities and is close to countless Muskoka attractions. To learn more about Norseman Restaurant & Walker Lake Resort, call toll free 1-800-565-3856 or visit their website (<http://www.norsemen-walkerlake.com>).

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**Contact Information****Catherine Coles**

Norsemen Restaurant and Walker Lake Resort

<http://www.norsemen-walkerlake.com>

(705) 635-2473

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The 3-D OrbiTee from Beyondadornment Lets the World Revolve Around the Wearer

A tee shirt that places the sun inside the wearer's body, with the Earth revolving around the wearer? It's all to let her or him see, or rather feel, how the constant tilt of the orbiting Earth creates the seasons. The OrbiTee seems in keeping with the new tee zeitgeist of pleasing the wearer and no one else, not to mention the current customer demand for interactivity with real content in every product they purchase. Who wants to wear an advertising placard these days? So believes beyondadornment, whose OrbiTee has now hit the market.

(PRWEB) December 5, 2009 -- When Jinya, the 6-year old adopted daughter of Jonathan Fisher, could not understand why it changes from summer to winter (even though she seemed to understand why it's daytime back in China where's she's from, but nighttime in Ossining, New York, where they live), Fisher was inspired to create a lesson that would stick. After all, the retired transit professional had forgotten why himself, and figured there must be thousands, if not millions, of people just like Jinya and him.

“What if the sun were inside your body,” Fisher wondered, “and the earth revolved around you, as on a tee shirt? If the earth maintained its same tilt all the way around, you would sense that the sun would shine directly on the northern hemisphere in June, and on the southern hemisphere in December.”

And so beyondadornment was born, featuring its first tee design, The OrbiTee: www.beyondadornment.com. Fisher spent over a year creating a tee shirt that would make the point clear. In a transcontinental effort mirroring the tee concept, the 100% combed organic cotton, sweatshop-free, tees are supplied by a Los Angeles factory, marketed in Denver, screen-printed in Cleveland, and designed, labeled, and reviewed for scientific accuracy in New York.

The OrbiTee shows the earth in orbit around the wearer's body, showcasing its appearance at the summer and winter solstices as well as the spring and autumnal equinoxes. Local times and associated temperatures are shown for 20 places of interest around the world, something lacking in other visual explanations of the seasons. The position of the stars and moon is also shown with as much accuracy as the tee shirt medium allows.

People seem to like it a lot. When one model whom Fisher photographed for the website was told of the launch, she emailed Fisher “I'm so glad that the OrbiTee has finally launched. I've been wearing it around and getting lots of compliments, so now I'll know where to send people who might want to buy it!”

Fisher hopes to sell The OrbiTee through planetarium gift shops worldwide, as well as on the beyondadornment site. With tee shirt prices ranging from \$2 to \$75 or more, these tees occupy a middle range, reflecting double-side screen printing in 7-8 spot colors, 3-D effects on the adult size, and their ethical manufacture. “Buy one for someone close as a Christmas gift. When you then see it close-up, you may want to buy another for yourself,” Fisher advises.



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Contact Information

Jonathan Fisher

beyondadornment

<http://www.beyondadornment.com>

914-413-5378

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Clarity Defog It Anti-Fog Gets Hunters Focused for Deer Season - Keeps Shooting Glasses and Eyewear Fog-Free Safe All Day

Deer hunting season is in full swing and hunters are taking to the woods with a new safety accessory: Clarity Defog It™ anti-fog liquid and towelettes for shooting glasses, eyeglasses and scopes.

Valley View, Ohio (Vocus) December 3, 2009 -- Deer hunting season is in full swing and hunters are taking to the woods with a new safety accessory: Clarity Defog It™ anti-fog liquid and towelettes for shooting glasses, eyeglasses and scopes.

The early morning chill or changeable temperatures throughout the day can fog up shooting glasses or regular eyewear. Even the lens on a spotting scope is susceptible. The result? A perfect shot can become a foggy blur. Obscured vision can also be a serious safety hazard in the woods.

Clarity Defog It anti-fog liquid and Clarity Defog It anti-fog towelettes have a formula used by the military around the world in vision-critical situations. Just one application can keep optics fog-free up to all day. Clarity Defog It anti-fog is safe and effective on all eyeglass lenses, goggles and optics, even today's high-tech anti-reflective and super-hydrophobic lenses. See a video demonstration at <http://www.nanofilmproducts.com/video/defogit.htm>

In tough lab tests, Defog It outperformed five leading anti-fog brands for eyeglasses, sunglasses, goggles and other sports optics. In one test, lenses treated with six different anti-fog treatments were held over constant hot steam. Clarity Defog It kept the lens fog-free for a full 60 minutes. The others failed in as little as 5 minutes.

In another test to simulate the all-day temperature changes from the chair lift to the chalet, treated lenses were repeatedly moved between a 30o freezer and a 72o room. Fog formed almost immediately with competitive products, but Clarity Defog It stayed clear for 100 cycles of heat and cold.

Clarity Defog It is available at Wal-Mart Vision Centers, Amazon (www.amazon.com, search "Defog It") and other retailers. Three reusable towelettes in a plastic carrying case sell for \$7.49 (MSRP). A half-ounce of the all-in-one cleaner and anti-fog liquid is \$4.99 (MSRP). More information is available at www.nanofilmproducts.com or by calling 1-888-ENDS-FOG.

Nanofilm, founded in 1985, is a global optical leader in lens care and coatings. Millions of people around the world use Nanofilm products, including Clarity Clean It™, Clarity Defog It™ and other lens care products, as well as nanotechnology-enabled coatings. More information is available at www.nanofilmproducts.com.

Contact: Lynn Lilly
216-702-5167



###



Contact Information

Lynn Lilly

Nanofilm

<http://www.nanofilmproducts.com>

216-702-5167

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Odyssey to Deliver Exclusive Videos of “Faith at the Summit” from Copenhagen

Providing video coverage of the world’s interfaith community in action at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

New York, NY (PRWEB) December 4, 2009 -- Odyssey Networks, the nation’s largest coalition of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith groups promoting the causes of tolerance, peace, and social justice through media production, is providing video coverage of the world’s interfaith community in action at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP-15). Odyssey’s “Faith at the Summit” is believed to be the only video news coverage focusing solely on the activities of religious leaders and organizations at the crucial climate conference.

From December 8 through December 15, Odyssey will deliver daily video reports from Copenhagen, with a special wrap-up report on December 19 from London. The videos will be available for viewing at odysseynetworks.org. Odyssey is sharing highlights of the daily video reports with over 100 major climate change organizations and religious institutions. Lead producer/presenter of “Faith at the Summit” is the award-winning documentarian Mark Dowd, formerly of the BBC and Channel 4 and the UK’s “Religious Broadcaster of the Year” (2006). He is currently campaign strategist for Operation Noah.

Notables from virtually all the world’s faiths will be in Copenhagen to advocate for decisive action on climate change. The list of attendees who will be interviewed by Odyssey includes Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Richard Cizik (New Evangelicals), Michael Kagan (Jewish Climate Change Initiative), Roman Catholic Sister Joan Chittister (Benetvision), Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell (Chautauqua Institution), Andrew Harvey (Sacred Activism), Venerable Bhikku Bodhi (Buddhist Global Relief), Sufi Rehman Muhaiyaddeen and Sraddalhu Ranade . Odyssey will also be producing video diaries by key leaders and youth delegates from various faiths and nations, and covering highlights of the major faith-related gatherings. Additional videos and other resources on the intersection of faith and climate change are now available on the Odyssey website, along with a special preview of “Faith at the Summit.”

“This year no event will unite the planet like the climate change summit in Copenhagen,” said Nick Stuart, President and CEO of Odyssey Networks, “and no issue is capable of uniting the world’s religions like climate change. The world’s media will be focused on Copenhagen and religious leaders from around the world will be there to share the insights their faiths bring to the most important challenge of our age – stewardship of God’s creation. One issue, one place, one time – there could be no more crucial event for Odyssey Network’s cameras to show how religions can work together to change the world.”

About Odyssey Networks:

Odyssey Networks is the nation’s largest coalition of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith groups dedicated to producing and distributing media that promotes causes such as peace, tolerance and social justice. Established in 1987, Odyssey Networks is a service of the National Interfaith Cable Coalition, Inc. For more information visit odysseynetworks.org



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Contact Information

Mary Dickey

Odyssey Networks

<http://www.odysseynetworks.org>

212-870-1030

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



GeoOptics LLC and CU-Boulder Create a Partnership Around the CICERO System of Earth Satellites

GeoOptics LLC (www.geooptics.com) and the University of Colorado at Boulder today announced the formation of a long-term partnership to collaborate on instrument and space system development for Earth remote sensing, integrated with education and research programs in Earth and space science and engineering. The partnership envisions CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) to be a key player in the development, manufacture, test, launch, and operation of GeoOptics' planned CICERO system of Earth remote sensing satellites, as well as all follow-on or extension satellites. In addition, the partners plan to integrate into the CICERO project and the GeoOptics enterprise frequent and sustained opportunities for scientific research, kindergarten through post-doctoral multi-disciplinary education, and public outreach.

Boulder, CO (Vocus) -- [GeoOptics LLC](#) and the [University of Colorado at Boulder](#) today announced the formation of a long-term partnership to collaborate on instrument and space system development for Earth remote sensing, integrated with education and research programs in Earth and space science and engineering.

The partnership envisions CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) to be a key player in the development, manufacture, test, launch, and operation of GeoOptics' planned CICERO system of Earth remote sensing satellites, as well as all follow-on or extension satellites. In addition, the partners plan to integrate into the CICERO project and the GeoOptics enterprise frequent and sustained opportunities for scientific research, kindergarten through post-doctoral multi-disciplinary education, and public outreach.

In this "Partnership for the Advancement of Science, Education, and Engineering in the Context of the Commercial CICERO Earth Observing System," GeoOptics will gain from CU and LASP's more than 60 years of experience in space sciences and engineering. CU in turn will strengthen its already robust programs in space and Earth science research, engineering, education, and public outreach. As part of the University of Colorado at Boulder, LASP has in residence many of the nation's top researchers and students in science, engineering, and entrepreneurship.

"LASP believes in this program and supports partnering with GeoOptics because CICERO will provide an operational capability for urgent data needs while at the same time offering frequent opportunities for recurring research, technology advancement, and education," said Dan Baker, Director of LASP. "I am convinced that this effort could light an exciting new way forward in training the next-generation of Earth scientists and space engineers while delivering key environmental data that our nation needs."

"We are delighted to have CU-Boulder and LASP as a partner. The research and engineering at CU/LASP is world-class and we look forward to the innovation and discoveries that this partnership will deliver," comments Tom Yunck, founder and president of GeoOptics. "What's more, this is exactly what we are trying to accomplish – industry, academia, and end-users working toward common goals."

About GeoOptics

GeoOptics LLC is an emerging provider of space-based Earth remote sensing data and services. GeoOptics plans



to collect diverse information on the Earth's atmosphere, ice sheets, and oceans in near real-time starting in 2011 with a constellation of 24 small satellites known as CICERO. Data from CICERO will enhance our understanding of many interrelated environmental processes, and our ability to predict the course of environmental change. Governments and industries around the world will use CICERO data in such diverse areas as agriculture, energy, intelligence, defense, air and marine transportation, resource exploration, insurance and risk management, and emergency preparedness. Additional information about the company can be found at www.geooptics.com.

About LASP

LASP research focuses on identifying and addressing key questions in planetary, atmospheric, solar influences, and space sciences – combining expertise in space science, engineering, and spacecraft operations. LASP supports the university's educational mission by offering technical and scientific training to students as part of ongoing programs.

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Contact Information

Michelle McWhinney

202 361-2891

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Raising Millions for Team Challenge through Rock ‘n’ Roll Las Vegas Half Marathon Program Brings Hundreds From Across the Country to Raise Funds for Crohn’s & Colitis

On Sunday, more than 900 runners and walkers from Las Vegas and around the country will cross the finish line at the Rock ‘n’ Roll Las Vegas Half Marathon powered by Zappos.com, raising over \$3.2 million for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation through its half marathon training program, Team Challenge (www.ccteamchallenge). As the official charity of the race, the funds will go toward research, education, and support initiatives to benefit the 1.4 million American adults and children living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, chronic, painful, and often debilitating digestive diseases. Bob Van Dillen, meteorologist for HLN's "Morning Express with Robin Meade," will serve as National Honorary Chairman and will run the 13.1 mile race.

Las Vegas, Nev. (Vocus) December 2, 2009 -- On Sunday, more than 900 runners and walkers from Las Vegas and around the country will cross the finish line at the Rock ‘n’ Roll Las Vegas Half Marathon powered by Zappos.com, raising over \$3.2 million for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation through its half marathon training program, Team Challenge (www.ccteamchallenge). As the official charity of the race, the funds will go toward research, education, and support initiatives to benefit the 1.4 million American adults and children living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, chronic, painful, and often debilitating digestive diseases. Bob Van Dillen, meteorologist for HLN's "Morning Express with Robin Meade," will serve as National Honorary Chairman and will run the 13.1 mile race.

"I'm honored to serve as Honorary Chairman for this truly incredible event through the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation," said Van Dillen. "Chances are, there are hundreds—if not thousands—of "Morning Express with Robin Meade" viewers out there who are affected by Crohn's and colitis. Participating in this event is a way I can help the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation in its mission to build awareness and fund critical research to ultimately find a cure."

"As the official charity and with assistance from HLN's Van Dillen, the Foundation has been able to further elevate awareness of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and raise much-needed funds for patients who are suffering from them," said Staci Brown, National Event Director for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. "Involvement in this energetic event is allowing the Foundation to tap into new markets and reach new heights in its awareness-building and fundraising efforts."

Las Vegas holds a special place in the hearts of CCFA as it is home to several patient honorees suffering from the disease, including 21-year-old Crohn's patient and Miss Clark County 2009, Christina DeLessio. Diagnosed with Crohn's disease at only 9-years-old, Christina suffered from a significant weight loss, constant nausea, and nutrient malabsorption. Soon after diagnosis, she was put on massive doses of steroids, causing her to gain too much weight and become unrecognizable from the drug's bloating effects. "This weekend as Team Challenge participants cross the finish line, they will be doing so for the millions of patients around the country suffering from the physical and emotional impact of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis—for the little girl who came

home crying every day for being made fun of, the family who travels to doctors every week, or the student who can't go to class because of how badly they feel," says Christina. "We all have good days and bad days, but I only want to focus on the good. I want to be the voice for those who do not have one and the hope for those who are struggling."

Team Challenge prepares participants to run or walk a half marathon while helping to raise funds for research, education and support. Twenty-seven chapters throughout the nation recruited runners and walkers, provided 16-week training programs, and offered fundraising advice and assistance. Over the event weekend in Las Vegas, Team Challenge participants are celebrating together and exploring all Las Vegas has to offer with highlights including a pre-race pasta party, entertainment along the half marathon course, and a post-race victory party.

Runners and walkers interested in taking part in summer 2010 races, the Boston 13.1® and Napa-to-Sonoma Wine Country Half Marathons, with Team Challenge can visit www.ccteamchallenge.org or call 866.931.2611 to find a local chapter training.

About Crohn's Disease & Ulcerative Colitis

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are painful, medically incurable illnesses that attack the digestive system. Crohn's disease may attack anywhere from the mouth to the anus, while ulcerative colitis inflames only the large intestine (colon). Symptoms may include abdominal pain, persistent diarrhea, rectal bleeding, fever and weight loss. Many patients require hospitalization and surgery. These illnesses can cause severe complications, including colon cancer in patients with long-term disease. Some 1.4 million American adults and children suffer from Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, with as many as 150,000 under the age of 18. Most people develop the diseases between the ages of 15 and 35.

About the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America's mission is to cure Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases. The Foundation ranks third among leading health non-profits in the percentage of expense devoted to research toward a cure, with more than 81 cents of every dollar the Foundation spends goes to mission-critical programs. The Foundation consistently meets the standards of organizations that monitor charities, including the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance (give.org) and the American Institute of Philanthropy (charitywatch.org). For more information, contact the Foundation at 800-932-2423 or visit www.ccfa.org.

About Bob Van Dillen

Van Dillen is a meteorologist for HLN. Based in CNN's world headquarters in Atlanta, Van Dillen joined the network in September 2002. Before joining HLN, Van Dillen was with the NBC affiliate WCNC in Charlotte, N.C., where he was a weekend meteorologist. Before this position, he was the morning meteorologist with CBS affiliate WTVH in Syracuse, N.Y., where he had also served as the weekend meteorologist. Previously, Van Dillen worked for ABC affiliate WUTR in Utica, N.Y., where he served as chief meteorologist. He began his career in Long Island, N.Y., as a forecaster for the Metro Weather Service. Van Dillen was awarded the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Seal of Approval in March 1997. He also is a full member of the AMS. Van Dillen earned a bachelor of science degree in meteorology from Millersville University in Pennsylvania.



MEDIA CONTACT:

Ariella Levine
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
646-420-8146
alevine (at) ccfa (dot) org

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Contact Information

Ariella Levine

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

<http://www.cdfa.org>

646-943-7430

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





North Carolina Farm Improves Crop Quality, Yield and ROI With Stoller Products

Jimmy Winslow, of Tanglewood Farms in Beaufort, North Carolina, has successfully improved crop yields despite stress conditions of disease, fungus and extreme winds near the Atlantic coast. He has seen the influence of Stoller products on his wheat, corn and soybean crops.

Houston, TX (PRWEB) December 2, 2009 -- Although facing threatening regional conditions on his crops, a North Carolina farmer has been harvesting the benefits of Stoller products.

Jimmy Winslow of Tanglewood Farms has been using Stoller products for over eight years on his wheat, corn and soybean crops. Regular applications of products such as Bio-Forge® have helped to increase yield and quality while shielding Tanglewood's investment from harsh weather, disease and insect pressures.

The farming conditions in North Carolina can be challenging. Many times farmers face a long, dry season followed by the torrential rains and extreme winds experienced during hurricane season. In addition, insect and disease pressures common to the area erode the overall yield potential. To combat these regional conditions, the folks at Tanglewood Farms have come to rely on products like Stoller's Bio-Forge® and X-Tra Power™.

"The roots are the brains of the plant," says Winslow, "and Bio-Forge promotes large root mass to ensure a good crop, even in some tricky conditions."

At Tanglewood Farms, Bio-Forge is applied to wheat, corn and soybeans along with nitrogen and again when applying fungicide. Wheat treated with Bio-Forge got off to a good start and emerged from the cold winter conditions faster than untreated wheat, remaining golden and healthy despite several heavy rains prior to the late harvest.

This year, Winslow also credits Bio-Forge with helping to eliminate problems with SCAB (Stinking Smut) and other diseases common to the area. Grade, test weight and yield were also higher than normal, resulting in an estimated return on investment increase of 50 cents per bushel. The corn crop, despite hail damage, was vigorous and healthy - with hearty root systems, larger stalks and an overall increase in quality and yield.

"Even my soybeans are significantly taller than neighbors not using Stoller products," [Winslow](#) recently added, "Better yields. Better quality. Why wouldn't I use Bio-Forge?"

[Bio-Forge](#) is a yield-enhancing stress reducer for all crops. It reduces the negative effects of plant stress caused by drought, excessive moisture, frost, herbicide damage and other crop stressors. Proven to enhance a plant's natural ability to overcome damage caused by disease and insects to increase productivity and overall yield, Bio-Forge may be applied as a seed treatment, in-furrow or as a foliar spray application.

StollerUSA is dedicated to helping producers enhance their crops by maximizing genetic expression. The result is in enhanced marketable yield, resistance to insects, nematodes, and disease, while maximizing the return on investment. Stoller products are proven to ensure optimum plant growth by maintaining appropriate hormone



balance in combination with supporting nutrients, resulting in healthier, more productive crops that are better able to withstand stress and achieve their full genetic potential.

In agribusiness for more than 40 years, StollerUSA markets a full line of [products](#) to help farmers increase crop yield and quality. StollerUSA, headquartered in Houston, is actively researching and developing plant performance products in more than 50 countries. For more information on StollerUSA, visit www.StollerUSA.com.

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**Contact Information****Patricia Lawson**

StollerUSA

<http://www.stollerusa.com>

608-776-2219

Online Web 2.0 VersionYou can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Blinds Chalet Urges Holiday Travelers to Consider Window Treatments a Vital Safety Measure

Blinds Chalet urge homeowners to consider the safety benefits of having appropriate window blinds and/or window coverings installed especially during holiday travel. Whether at home or traveling, consider window blinds a vital security feature that can have a more affordable price tag than other security measures.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) December 1, 2009 -- Blinds Chalet urge homeowners to consider the safety benefits of having appropriate window blinds and/or window coverings installed especially during the holiday season. Whether at home or traveling during the holidays, consider window blinds a vital security feature that can have a more affordable price tag than other security measures.

Break-ins during the holidays increase due to two factors:

1. Vacant homes due to holiday traveling
2. High quality items within view

When out of town, use window blinds and coverings to shield interiors. Suspend newspaper subscriptions and have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail. Enable light or TV timers which can give the appearance that someone is home.

Even if you are in town during the holidays, leaving valuable items within view such as gifts under a tree near an uncovered window, is often a factor in holiday season break-ins. This is a scenario that can be thwarted with appropriate window blinds.

Chris Stanley of Blinds Chalet suggests, "Rather than closing curtains while you are away and completely blocking the view in or out, [soft sheer shades](#) or [translucent cellular shades](#), especially at night, will show the glow of a lamp or TV. This will give the impression that someone is at home."

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at info (at) blindschalet (dot) com or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840. Or visit Blinds Chalet online at www.blindschalet.com.

Contact: Chris Stanley

Company: Blinds Chalet

www.BlindsChalet.com

Phone: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840

Email: info (at) blindschalet (dot) com

###



Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.BlindsChalet.com>

1-888-633-7840

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



South Lake Tahoe Vacation Rental Home has Brand New Improvements

The Ormsby South Lake Tahoe vacation house was closed for two months, to give it a major remodel. It is looking better than ever with a new \$15,000 hot tub/installation to relax in, new beautiful radiant heated travertine flooring, remodeled kitchen, and remodeled bathrooms just to name a few. This vacation rental in South Lake Tahoe truly doesn't get better than this. Visit us at www.tahoehouse.net .

(PRWEB) December 2, 2009 -- It took Charles and contractors, two full months and lots of hard work to complete, but the [South Lake Tahoe Ormsby vacation rental home](http://www.tahoehouse.net) really looks great. “We made several major improvements that we hope all of our guests will enjoy” says Charles Seidel. With many residential homes in South Lake Tahoe hit by foreclosures in today’s down market, it is great to see a man with hope of better days to come. Charles brought in a brand new luxurious hot tub that is nestled close to the house and it has a great wilderness views. “Having a hot tub at your Tahoe vacation rental is a must have” says Charles “especially after a long day on the slopes”.

Charles also added stunning travertine flooring with radiant heating, so “even if you forget to bring your slippers your toes will stay nice and warm.” There are new TV’s and ipod speakers to the living area along with a fresh coat of paint and track lighting. The kitchen got an overhaul including a new stovetop, dishwasher and refrigerator. Charles also remodeled the bathrooms and brought in some great new furniture and décor.

This Lake Tahoe vacation rental house is just minutes away from Heavenly Ski Resort and all the great shopping, restaurants, and of course the casinos that South Lake Tahoe has to offer. For more information or to make a reservation at one of Charles’s vacation rentals visit him at: www.tahoehouse.net.

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Contact Information

Charles Seidel

South Lake Tahoe Vacation Homes

<http://www.tahoehouse.net>

415-505-2525

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Skiers Heading For Eastern Europe: 154% Rise in Interest For Cheap Flights To The East

Tight holiday budgets are leading skiers to leapfrog traditional favourites in the Alps for better value ski resorts in Central and Eastern Europe this winter.

(PRWEB) December 2, 2009 -- Skyscanner has seen a 154% rise in searches for winter flights from the UK to cities east of the Alps compared to last year.

The most popular eastern ski hubs are Krakow in Poland, Sofia in Bulgaria, Bratislava in Slovakia and Ljubljana in Slovenia. The trends reflect the search for better value skiing combined with [cheap flights](#) this winter in light of the recession and strong Euro.

Further evidence for this trend comes from a recent Skyscanner poll which asked skiers and snowboarders whether they would be taking a ski trip this winter; 57% replied that they would, but of those, 65% said they would be heading for a cheaper option than usual.

Sam Baldwin, Skyscanner travel editor and ski expert commented on the trends:

“With an après ski pint now costing close to £8 in some French resorts, many skiers and snowboarders are looking for cheaper options this year. Eastern Europe has suffered from a stigma – some people imagine it to be all concrete communist blocks and dodgy food – but that’s completely inaccurate.

“Whilst it’s true that most resorts in Eastern and central Europe are smaller than large interlinked areas in France or Austria, they do offer plenty of great skiing in attractive alpine towns, excellent value and an interesting cultural experience.”

Skyscanner’s proprietary technology scours over 600 airlines and travel agents to find the best flight tickets. It includes flexible views showing ranges from whole year to month prices and day-to-day prices so whether it is [flights to New York](#) or a ski trip leaving on a [London flight](#) Skyscanner can find the perfect deal.

About Skyscanner:

Skyscanner is a leading travel search site based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Skyscanner provides instant online comparison on flight prices for over 670,000 routes on over 600 airlines, as well as car hire, hotel and holiday price comparison. With Skyscanner, users can browse without having to enter specific dates or even destinations, and Skyscanner is available in 20 different languages including French, German and Spanish.

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Contact Information

Skyscanner News

Skyscanner Ltd

<http://www.skyscanner.net>

01312525353

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Beat the Traffic® Introduces Improved My Traffic Service

Beat the Traffic® has rolled out an improved version of its subscription My Traffic service. BeatTheTraffic.com is a website that provides real time information about traffic in metropolitan areas. Users have free access to basic features, while creation of a My Traffic account gives them access to a much larger set of features.

Santa Clara, CA (PRWEB) December 2, 2009 -- Beat the Traffic® has rolled out an improved version of its subscription [My Traffic](#) service. BeatTheTraffic.com is a website that provides real time information about traffic in metropolitan areas. Users have free access to basic features, while creation of a My Traffic account gives them access to a much larger set of features.

Basic services for the site include a live traffic map, which displays color coded routes based on the speed of traffic. The map also provides indications of construction, accidents and other delays, along with corresponding information. Also included are live traffic camera views, known drive times along major routes and live incident reports.

While the basic service is useful, commuters will find the My Traffic service comes with some very helpful tools. My Traffic allows users to create personalized routes; this includes drive times, incident reports and cameras shown for a specific route. This takes the guesswork out of commuting and enables commuters to plan for delays and find an alternate route if necessary. My Traffic also has a 7-day traffic forecast that will allow users to plan ahead, especially for upcoming events such as construction projects. The forecast feature allows users to avoid traffic problems ahead of time and plan alternate routes to avoid these. In addition, commuters will have a list of traffic cameras and incident reports specific to your route, instead of having to find each on a larger map. Users can also create a list of favorites, rather than having to individually locate a camera out of the 4500 that Beat the Traffic® has available. My Traffic can also be configured to send email updates, and on the go, My Traffic can even send updates to a mobile phone via SMS.

My traffic provides an excellent way to get all the traffic data for a specific route. Now, all the data is in one place, right at everyone's fingertips. Having live information takes all the guesswork out of deciding a route. Now commuters can easily plan which way to take. My Traffic offers a [2 week free trial](#) to anyone who is interested in trying out the service. During this time, users get full access to all features and have a chance to decide if they would like to subscribe to the service. For those who wish to subscribe, the service is easily affordable at a yearly rate of \$19.95.

Let Beat the Traffic® Get You There!

About Beat the Traffic®

Based in Santa Clara, CA, Triangle Software LLC d/b/a Beat the Traffic® is the fastest-growing provider of vehicle traffic reporting solutions. Acclaimed for its visually-striking graphics, simple setup and user-friendly interface, Beat the Traffic® received the Television Broadcast magazine's NAB Top Innovation Award. Triangle Software is a National Science Foundation funded early innovator in traffic prediction and presentation science.



For more information please contact Andre Gueziec at (408) 877-6600 and visit www.beatthetraffic.com and www.trianglesoftware.com. The Beat the Traffic® technology is protected by U.S. Patents Nos. 6,989,765, 7,161,497, 7,221,287, 7,375,649, 7,508,321, 7, 557,730 and 7,610,145.

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Contact Information

Andre Guezic

Beat the Traffic

<http://www.beatthetraffic.com>

408 777 6505

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



New Website Launched! Designing and Building A Dream Home in Anguilla Architecture - Project Management - Property Development -Procurement - MEP

Sunset Homes is pleased to launch its new website www.sunsethomesanguilla.com which contains lots of useful information for anyone hoping to build a dream home or property in Anguilla. Sunset Homes is a dynamic firm based on the alluring island of Anguilla in the British West Indies that specializes in Architecture and design, Property Development, Project Management as well as consulting services.

(PRWEB) December 1, 2009 -- Sunset Homes is a dynamic firm based on the alluring island of Anguilla in the British West Indies that specializes in Architecture and design, Property Development, Project Management as well as consulting services. Sunset Homes is pleased to launch its new website www.sunsethomesanguilla.com which contains lots of useful information for anyone hoping to build a dream home or property in Anguilla.

With a proven 15-year track record, Sunset Homes is credited with some of the most acclaimed and prestigious villa, residential and commercial property developments on Anguilla, including The Beach House http://sunsethomesanguilla.com/The_Beach_House.htm, Splash!, Spyglass Hill Villa www.spyglasshillanguilla.com, Beachcourt Villa, Papillon, Little Butterfly www.littlebutterflyanguilla.com, Meads Bay Beach Villas and Le Bleu, to name a few.

Led by Master Designer/Developer Ian "Sugar George" Edwards, Sunset Homes comprises a team of talented professionals who possess vast industry experience and up-to-date skills. Sunset Homes pride itself on providing innovative solutions as well as cutting edge designs that incorporate sustainable best practices that are tailor-made for tropical and coastal environments.

Sunset Homes works closely with clients to maximize their investment and achieve their vision. At the core of Sunset Homes is our ability to listen to our clients and establishing strong communication links that are essential in realizing their dreams.

Good business practice, sound judgement and creative excellence are embodied in each project undertaken.

Our comprehensive services, integrate the multi-disciplined resources of a larger company, while still offering the personal attention, client care and flexibility of a small firm.

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Sunset Homes has a strong Architectural Design and Drafting team who will capture your vision and provide guidance and advice to ensure the creation of a sound, workable design suitable for your project. Sunset Homes has extensive expertise and experience in the construction field and so can offer a unique blend of practical and workable insights of designs for the tropics. Some of the services include: Architectural Designs and Renderings,



Drafting of Architectural and Engineering Plans, Submission of drawings and follow up through to Government approval from conception to full working drawings, Design consultancy for overseas architectural firms working on local projects, Local expertise and insight and other special services upon request including architectural renderings aid model creation. The team views each project as an opportunity to create unique spaces that capture the best of tropical living. The company specializes in working with clients who reside overseas who require reliable and consistent support services. Sunset Homes constantly strives to produce properties of the highest standard.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Sunset Homes Project Management services extend from sketch concept through to master plan design, government planning approval and finally construction completion. The company's role as Project Managers is to liaise with Owner, Contractor, Project Design Firm, Suppliers and Government to provide the managerial and technical expertise required to execute the project. Sunset Homes' solid reputation is based on its approachable, effective and thoughtful service. The company's aim is to ensure that all projects are successfully realised according to client needs. The range of services include: Project Planning, Design Management, Contractor Bid Process Support Services and Project Consultancy.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Since establishing Sunset Homes in 1995, the company has earned the reputation as one of Anguilla's foremost builders of luxury villas and vacation homes. In 2003, Sunset Homes became an integral part of Signature Villas and embarked on a mission to provide proven Property Development solutions tailored to the needs of our clients. Excellent design, coupled with state of the art technology that consistently incorporates the highest quality materials and finishes are recognized trademarks of the prestigious work carried out by Signature Villas. Each Signature Villa is a one-of-a-kind home, created by professional craftsmen for the ultimate in comfort and style. From initial creation and design to the finished project, a Signature Villa home is the reflection of each customer's taste and style, yet it is built upon a timeless foundation of craftsmanship and pride. Tucked away throughout the island in some of the most coveted settings, the Signature Villas are gateways for clients to build and share memorable experiences with family and friends

Be sure to check the company website at www.sunsethomesanguilla.com for lots of ideas and advice on architecture and building in Anguilla and for general updates on life in Anguilla see www.anguillalifestyle.com.

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Contact Information

Janine Edwards

Sunset Homes

<http://www.sunsethomesanguilla.com>

264-497-3666

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image



7 Best Holiday Safety Tips for Driving and Shopping

Andover Massachusetts personal injury attorney, Thomas M. Kiley, offers tips and advice for safe driving and shopping this holiday season and all winter.

(PRWEB) December 1, 2009 -- The holiday season should be a time for joy and reflection, filled with happy homes, wonderful meals, and warm memories to carry us into a new year. Unfortunately the holiday season also brings snowy weather and a lot of additional traffic which can result in serious car accidents and personal injuries.

Andover, Massachusetts personal injury attorney, Thomas M. Kiley, wants everyone in Massachusetts and across the U.S. to have a happy and safe holiday season, which is why he put together his Top 7 Tips for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season to help drivers and shoppers celebrate the holidays in peace.

1. Keep your car in good working condition, which includes checking your tires for air pressure and tread as well as keeping your gas tank at least half full to avoid a freeze-up. Taking your car to a mechanic to check your battery, antifreeze levels, and other factors can also prevent you from breaking down in bad weather.
2. Create an emergency kit for your vehicle including jumper cables, flashlights, a first-aid kit, blankets, signal flares, and water.
3. Distracted driving is often just as dangerous as drinking and driving, so in addition to never driving after drinking alcohol, do not talk on your cell phone, eat, text message, read a newspaper, or apply makeup (among other distractions) while behind the wheel.
4. Allow extra driving time for short and long trips. Between snowy weather and increased holiday traffic, delays are basically inevitable. By giving yourself extra time you'll be less likely to speed or engage in other reckless driving tactics to try and save time on the road.
5. When going shopping, make sure to stomp the snow off of your shoes before entering a store while also using the rubber mats that should be provided by the retailer to remove additional moisture. Slip and fall accidents are never fun and you don't want to spend the holidays lying in a hospital bed.
6. Crime rates usually increase around the holidays so make sure to always be aware of your surroundings, try not to go to ATMs at night or alone, and try to shop at stores that provide well-lit parking lots and roving security if you must shop at night.
7. Wear comfortable shoes with good tread when shopping, especially if you have to walk through snow, sludge, or other wet conditions when entering or exiting a store.

Thomas M. Kiley also encourages anyone looking for more information on Massachusetts car accident claims, slip and fall injuries, and other premises liability issues to visit his website, [The 7 Biggest Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Massachusetts Accident Case](#).



About The Law Office of Tom Kiley: For over 30 years, the Massachusetts personal injury law firm of Thomas M. Kiley & Associates has concentrated in handling cases involving Massachusetts [automobile accidents](#), [birth injuries](#), [child injury and abuse](#), [product liability](#), medical malpractice, and wrongful death. We use our experience and resources to come to the aid of families who have been the victim of someone else's negligence. Mr. Kiley's success as a Massachusetts personal injury lawyer has earned him the title "The Million Dollar Man". The Massachusetts accident attorneys at Thomas M. Kiley and Associates, LLP have won over \$100 million in compensation for their clients.

###



Contact Information

Tom Kiley Jr.

Thomas M. Kiley & Associates

<http://www.tomkileylaw.com>

978-474-8946

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Blinds Chalet's Window Blind Tips for Allergy Sufferers

Blinds Chalet offers tips about window blinds and allergies.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) -- Over 50 million Americans are affected by allergies costing the healthcare system 18 billion dollars annually. Allergies are the 6th leading cause of chronic disease with dust mites ranking as one of the most common allergies, according to MedTV.com.

Houses accumulate dust and dust mites, which contribute to 10% of US allergies. Bedroom carpeting, household upholstery, fabric window blinds, and any other area made of fabric can be prime locations for dust accumulation. In order to help those suffering from dust allergies, Blinds Chalet offers tips that reduce allergies:

1. Real [wood blinds](#), [faux wood blinds](#), and aluminum blinds don't accumulate dust mites in the same way that fabric blinds do.
2. Make your own dust repellent with a mixture of 1 part liquid fabric softener and 4 parts water. Put into a spray bottle and spray onto a cloth and lightly wipe onto faux wood and aluminum blinds. For real wood, test a hidden location to make sure there is no long term discoloration.
3. For fabric blinds as well as wood and aluminum, designate a day each week to check the valance, molding and the blind itself for dust and vacuum or wipe as needed to keep dust accumulation to a minimum.

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at info (at) blindschalet (dot) com or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840. Or visit Blinds Chalet online at www.blindschalet.com.

Contact: Chris Stanley

Company: Blinds Chalet

www.BlindsChalet.com

Phone: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840

Email: info (at) blindschalet (dot) com

###



Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.blindschalet.com>

1-888-633-7840

Online Web 2.0 Version

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Blinds Chalet's ComforTrack Cell Shades Qualify for Tax Credit

Blinds Chalet's ComforTrack Insulating Cell Shades qualify buyers for up to \$1,500 in Tax Credits.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) November 27, 2009 -- In effort to promote energy efficiency, the United States Federal Government is offering a 30% tax credit up to \$1,500. Blind Chalet's ComforTrack Plus Insulation System qualifies for Federal Tax Credits for energy efficiency under the category of insulation. The ComforTrack Plus system is designed specifically for energy savings, providing a thermal performance rating up to five times greater than a standard single pane window. Multiple insulation barriers on this cell shade. Sidetracks on each side of the shade seal the edges while a foam seal between the headrail and the top of the window frame minimize any heat loss saving energy.

How to Qualify for Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency

1. Insulate existing home windows with the ComforTrack shades. Must purchase between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.
2. Save receipts from Blinds Chalet. Print out itemized confirmation page after ordering or login and print the order detail.
3. [Download the Certification Statement](#) from Comfortex. Fill it out and take it to a trusted tax accountant.

Buyers will not be reimbursed for installation fees. Homeowners should consult with a tax advisor to verify they qualify for the tax credit.

"Blinds Chalet is here to help our customers save money while improving their homes, which is why we detail on our website which blinds are energy efficient, which qualify for tax savings and which shades are the most cost effective," says Chris Stanley of Blinds Chalet.

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at info (at) blindschalet (dot) com or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840. Or visit Blinds Chalet online at www.blindschalet.com.

Contact: Chris Stanley
Company: Blinds Chalet
www.BlindsChalet.com

Phone: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840
Email: info (at) blindschalet (dot) com

###



Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.BlindsChalet.com>

1-888-633-7840

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Brits get heated on Twitter - 88% of Britons are unable to achieve the right temperature at home according to Twitter

88% of Britons are unable to achieve the right temperature at home and have turned to vent their frustrations on Twitter, complaining that they are too hot, too cold or incapable of working their boiler at all. That's the conclusion of the latest research completed on the Glow-worm Hot Topics Index, launched today, which uses real time tweets to assess the state of the nation on all things temperature related (www.yourhottopics.com).

(PRWeb UK) November 26, 2009 -- 88% of Britons are unable to achieve the right temperature at home and have turned to vent their frustrations on Twitter, complaining that they are too hot, too cold or incapable of working their boiler at all.

That's the conclusion of the latest research completed on the Glow-worm Hot Topics Index, launched today, which uses real time tweets to assess the state of the nation on all things temperature related (www.yourhottopics.com).

Twitter is revealing a snapshot of a population that is:

- Incapable to achieving a happy temperature at home
- Wasting their money through inefficient management of their heating
- Confused about how to keep themselves warm and cosy while remaining energy efficient.

Lebonque, London

"I'm walking round the flat with a blanket wrapped around me, secured with a belt while waiting for the heating to come on... 20 more minutes." (Further tweets in Notes)

Of the 5,000 heating related tweets posted in November, nearly two-thirds (64%) were from people who were too hot or too cold. A quarter (24%) were confused about how to work their heating, with frustrating consequences, and the remainder of tweets (12%) were from people too concerned about rising energy prices to even consider putting the heating on.

Confusion over how to effectively manage temperature at home while remaining energy efficient is causing stress in UK households, with 88% of people unable to achieve the right temperature at home. Many more are holding out to put the heating in at all in order to avoid the sting of high fuel bills (12%).

The energy specialists at Glow-worm are advising people to take 3 simple steps to ward off the chill this winter and manage their costs without getting hot under the collar.

- 1) Make sure your home is well insulated. Check out your loft; sort out any draughts from poorly fitted windows and doors.
- 2) Watch out for hot zones. The main rooms you use during the day should be at a minimum of 21°C (70°F) but at night your bedroom should be at a minimum of 18°C (65°F). Adjust your thermostat so you don't spend the day too cold and the night too hot.
- 3) Get acquainted with your central heating system. By spending 10 minutes getting to understand how your

boiler works you will be able to set your heating to a temperature that suits everyone in the household.

Katie Cope brand manager at Glow-worm: “You can have one of the world's most energy efficient boilers yet if it is running needlessly throughout the day or night it will be running inefficiently and wasting money. Good heating controls ensure that the boiler is only working when heat is needed in your home which is even more important with rising energy prices. It is startling to discover that so many people are confused about whether they can afford to put the heating on this winter.”

The Hot Topics Index is available to view at www.yourhottopics.co.uk. Users can search for Hot Topics nationally and in their area. Advice and information is also available on energy efficiency schemes in the local area.

To feature your own experiences on heating, boilers or energy prices simply send a message @yourhottopics to become part of the first twitter based national based experiment.

Examples tweets on from the Hot Topics Index below:

- Extreme measures:

lebonque

I'm walking round the flat with a blanket wrapped around me, secured with a belt while waiting for the heating to come on... 20 more minutes

London @ 2009-11-18 17:11:03london

BenTrow

Gloves indoors? Is this a bit weird? I guess it's cheaper than paying for more heating.

Derby, UK @ 2009-11-18 21:57:49westmidlands

mruku

wishes The Old Lady Downstairs would put her heating on. My feet are freezing.

Cheshire, England @ 2009-11-18 17:50:27 westmidlands

- Raising temperatures:

Sahara_

My house is SO cold 'cause my Dad had the heating off :(

Glasgow. @ 2009-11-18 17:47:00 scotland

rhomany

I am so freakin cold it's not even funny. Another degree and I'm going to have to break out the heating. Midlands, UK @ 2009-11-18 18:06:44westmidlands

Susan Guest

Environmentalists turned the heating off on Friday. Girl always forget to turn it back on, on Morning #itsfreezinginhere. Edinburgh

- Bracing yourself:

bessienc

A very mild evening, this keeps up I'll be saving a fortune on my heating bills. Happy days!
Dublin (Ireland) @ 2009-11-18 20:48:41

Swedish Ant

I made it! Lasted until November without putting the heating on. I'm so rugged < can I last until December?
Portsmouth

Urgh could do with a nice glass of wine but promised myself I'd be good and save the wine money to go towards heating hurmph. Scotland, Caithness

- Central heating confusion

BluntBloke

for some reason it's absolutely baking in our house even though the heating is set to 20 degrees, Wellingborough, Northamptonshi @ 2009-11-18 18:36:47 eastmidlands

ShamBaig

I'm eating chocolate ice cream as I am now feeling very hot (my dad turned the heating on) never satisfied am I?!
:P

Slough, England @ 2009-10-16 22:31:42

yum_catapillar

I have the heating on full with the door wide open. Its taken 6 hours to realise. FML moment much?, London

Media enquiries: Lisa Ferneyhough or Sally Rushton, DigForFireDMG

Tel: 0114 307 2064 or 0114 307 2066

glowworm (at) digforfiredmg.co (dot) uk

Notes to editors:

Hot Topics – yourhottopics.com

YOURHOTTOPICS.COM IS AVAILABLE TO JOURNALISTS AS A RESOURCE FOR TWEETS ON A NATIONAL OR REGIONAL LEVEL. NEW HOT TOPICS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN – IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIFIC FIGURES ON TRENDS IN YOUR AREA PLEASE CONTACT SALLY/LISA.

Boiler manufacturer and heating specialist Glow-worm owns the industry's first Twitter mash up with the Hot Topics Index, a unique online application designed to identify and visually represent real time temperature related tweets and other hot topics related to boilers and energy.

The twitter mash up sits within the consumer site at www.yourhottopics.co.uk drawing upon five key 'hot topics' at any one time, including energy saving advice, energy prices, boiler breakdowns and other topics related to heating. The timing of the campaign is key, coinciding with what Glow-worm identifies as the peak boiler season.

Glow-worm on Twitter: www.twitter.com/YourHotTopics
Hot Topics Index: www.yourhottopics.co.uk

Glow-worm

Glow-worm is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of heating appliances and renewable products, focussing on reliable, efficient products that help to save water and protect the environment.

The Ultracom 24hxi won the Which? Best Buy Award and was commended for offering exceptional levels of efficiency.

Glow-worm is part of Vaillant Group, the world leader in the manufacture of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning technology. The Group employs around 8,600 people worldwide, with annual sales of 2.7 million appliances and a turnover of €1.79 billion euros. Vaillant Group is also Europe's number one, with a market share of 27 per cent.

For more information please visit www.glow-wormheating.co.uk

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Contact Information

Lisa Ferneyhough

<http://www.twitter.com/yourhottopics>

0114 307 2064

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Preliminary Climate and Sea Level Changes for Vanuatu Through the Application of SimCLIM

The Vanuatu National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) through its Second National Communication (SNC) Project in collaboration with the Vanuatu Meteorological Services and CLIMsystems Ltd. of New Zealand have generated preliminary climate change and sea level rise results that will form the background for the country's SNC reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Port Vila, Vanuatu and Hamilton, New Zealand (PRWEB) November 28, 2009 -- The Vanuatu National Advisory Committee on Climate Change (NACCC) through its Second National Communication (SNC) Project in collaboration with the Vanuatu Meteorological Services and CLIMsystems Ltd. of New Zealand have generated preliminary climate change and sea level rise results that will form the background for the country's SNC reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Last week the NACCC's SNC Project sponsored the third workshop in a series that has linked Vanuatu with CLIMsystems, the developer and service provider, for a customized version of SimCLIM called VanuaCLIM. The software has been customised for use by Vanuatu with a local digital elevation model for all the islands of the Vanuatu archipelago and climate and other data specifically designed for application in the Pacific Island nation. The islands and their inhabitants are acknowledged as being on the front line in terms of effects due to climate change. The combination of rising sea levels and exacerbated extreme events such as droughts and tropical cyclones are two of the more visible examples of global environmental change occurring across the region. Smaller, incremental changes in the underlying climate also impact on day-to-day activities such as farming. Weed invasions have already occurred and plant and human disease outbreaks are now more prevalent. Both can be linked to increasing temperatures and shifts in precipitation regimes that now exceed very sensitive thresholds. Under the auspices of the UNFCCC and with funding from GEF through UNDP, Vanuatu and all the other nations of the Pacific are required to complete their Second National Communication. This document should express the underlying risk and vulnerability of the nation to climate change and define priority areas and adaptation activities so as to reduce climate impacts.

Vanuatu's NACCC, through its Meteorological Services, contracted CLIMsystems to provide not only a customised modeling system for the island nation but also technical backstopping in implementing its application. An enduring relationship has been formed and is based on excellent communication between the full membership of the NACCC which includes representatives from Meteorological Services, Agriculture, Water, Forestry, Fisheries, Quarantine, Lands, Tourism, Energy, and other specialist areas as required to complete the assessment. The Workshop of November 2009 saw the handing over of several new tools and specific training in a range of applications. One of the most helpful developments for the Vanuatu team was a software tool for collating hundreds of individual Excel spreadsheet files of climate data compiled through the Meteorological Service's innovative Data Digitisation project. This project, which has been running for several months, has entailed the digitisation of the Service's extensive (greater than 50 year) hardcopy climate data record. Over 5,000,000 data entries have been made to date and the structured management of the records has greatly benefited from the

application of CLIMsystems tools. The specialised data collation tool was used to draw together in one VanuaCLIM-compatible file; the daily precipitation and maximum, minimum and mean temperature for six sites spread across the archipelago. In 2010 more data will be seamlessly introduced into the VanuaCLIM system. Relative humidity, wind and solar radiation and six hourly temperatures will be introduced early in the new year.

Using the newly digitised site-specific time series daily data a preliminary analysis was done on some of the major sites selected for field survey for the Second National Communication. For example, through analysis in VanuaCLIM and, by exporting processed data to Excel, we were quickly able to assess trends in minimum, maximum and mean temperature for Bauerfield, Efate situated 7 kilometers from the capital Port Vila. While temperature is well known to be variable and reflects various cyclical climate phenomena that pertain to the Pacific, the general trend is toward a warming that is in line with global changes. While slightly slower in its overall temperature increase profile, as a result of the moderating effect of the surrounding Pacific ocean, maximum temperatures increased an average of 0.046 degrees Celsius, per year, over the period of record. Interestingly and, in line with global trends, the overnight minimum temperatures increased 70 percent quicker than the maximum, at 0.069 degrees Celsius, on average, per year.

Another important activity completed during this visit enabled sea level data to be analysed using VanuaCLIM and other software products developed by CLIMsystems. The VanuaCLIM sea level rise scenario generator is one of the more powerful climate impact assessment tools in that it considers local tidal trends and land movements, over time, in its computation of potential sea level rise scenarios. During the November workshop Port Vila data from Australia's National Tidal Centre for the past 17 years was analysed for tidal extremes and trends using tools developed by CLIMsystems. The data was then entered into Excel so that a trend line could be constructed of the tidal change and vertical land movement. The derived figure of 4.738 mm a year was then entered into the VanuaCLIM sea level rise scenario generator.

By 2100 a possible sea level rise of 1000 mms for Port Vila was found when a high climate sensitivity was applied to a worse case story line for global greenhouse gas emissions within the global climate system. The worse case from the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the world was 590 mms. Geographically, the portion of Efate island where Port Vila and the tide gauge are located is seismically active and, is in fact, slowly sinking, which exacerbates the real rate of sea level rise. It is important to note that this is just one scenario of possible sea level change and the data record is modest.

The strength behind the VanuaCLIM modeling system is the inherent ability for the generator to quickly and efficiently construct alternative scenarios based on different assumptions about the future. The range of possibilities and the uncertainty that they represent forms the basis for a high quality risk and enhanced adaptation option assessment.

Vanuatu's Second National Communication team will be in the field in the first part of 2010. They plan to complete their SNC document by the end of 2010. The document will include Vanuatu's greenhouse gas inventory which is currently underway. For additional detail on Vanuatu's climate change initiatives, contact Brian Phillips, the Secretary of NACCC at the Vanuatu Climate Change Office [piccap\(at\)vanuatu\(dot\)com\(dot\)vu](mailto:piccap@vanuatu.com.vu).



See the CLIMsystems website for more information on CLIMsystems products, services and contact details:
<http://climsystems.com/>

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Contact Information

Brian Phillips

CLIMsystems Ltd.

<http://climsystems.com/>

647 834 2999

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





World Famous Budweiser Clydesdales Coming to Killington Vermont

The kick-off the 2009-2010 ski season in the town of Killington Vermont proudly welcomes the Budweiser Clydesdales.

(PRWEB) November 28, 2009 -- It is the kick-off of Ski Season in Killington Vermont. To celebrate, one of the equine world's most celebrated attractions, the famous Budweiser Clydesdales, are scheduled to make a four-day holiday appearance in Killington Vermont. The eight-horse hitch will be in Killington December 9th through 13th as part of the town's holiday festivities. Details are at www.discoverkillington.com

The Budweiser Clydesdale hitch has a great history with Vermont. Several of the brewery's holiday commercials were filmed in Vermont, including the post 9-11 Superbowl spot that showed the hitch on a Vermont country road before crossing a bridge into Manhattan. The Budweiser Clydesdale Hitch is one of the most recognizable and popular attractions in the United States and known world-wide.

The eight-horses and their familiar red beer wagon will parade through Killington on Saturday December 12th beginning at noon, weather permitting. The parade route begins at the Pickle Barrel Nightclub on the Killington Road, where the horses will be stabled during their Killington Vermont visit. In addition to the parade on Saturday, several one-horse shows will be scheduled at Killington businesses during the weekend.

The Clydesdales' appearance in Killington is the only one scheduled for Vermont, but one of about 300 made annually by the five traveling Budweiser Clydesdale hitches. The Clydes last appeared in Killington in 2006.

Canadians of Scottish descent brought the first Clydesdales to America in the mid 1800s. Today, the large draft horses are used primarily for breeding and show. Horses selected for the Budweiser Hitch must be at least three years of age, stand six-feet at the shoulder and weigh an average of 2,000 pounds. Each horse must have four white stockings, a white blaze on its face and black mane and tail. A gentle temperament is key as the horses often meet millions of people each year.

Each hitch travels with a Dalmatian dog. In the early days of brewing, Dalmatians were bred and trained to protect the horses and guard the beer wagon when the driver went inside to make deliveries.

The public is invited to visit the Clydesdales in Killington in their tent on Wednesday afternoon when they arrive and from 10am to 4pm daily, Thursday through Sunday.

For more information www.discoverkillington.com

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Contact Information

Dariece Kirby-Kline

Town of Killington

<http://Dariece Kirby-Kline>

802-422-2185

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Blinds Chalet Introduces Asante Light Filtering Roman Shades

Blinds Chalet unveils the Asante Light Filtering Roman Shades as a cost-effective way to add light control and style to a room.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) November 26, 2009 -- Blinds Chalet's [Asante Light Filtering Roman Shades](#) add a new twist to traditional Roman Shades. This traditional style has been updated for the modern homeowner.

- Designed to block 99% of UV rays, Asante Light Filtering Roman Blinds protect furniture and art from fading and sun damage.
- Soil and dust resistant for longevity and perfect for individuals with allergies.
- 6" Fabric valance comes at no additional charge
- Asante Light Filtering Roman Shades are designed to compliment both traditional and modern designs

"We're excited to introduce the public to our Asante Light Filtering [Roman Shades](#)," says Chris Stanley of Blinds Chalet. "I'm confident homeowners will appreciate their technology and affordable pricing."

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at info (at) blindschalet (dot) com or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840. Or visit Blinds Chalet online at www.blindschalet.com.

Contact: Chris Stanley

Company: Blinds Chalet

www.BlindsChalet.com

Phone: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840

Email: info (at) blindschalet (dot) com

###



Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.BlindsChalet.com>

1-888-633-7840

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Vacationers Capture the Essence of Ocracoke Island

An “Elph” helped Aris Wakefield Michelsen win the Grand Prize in the Ocracoke Island Realty 2009 Photo Contest. She used a Canon Digital Elph camera to capture a powerful image of her sand-covered feet propped up in front of the ocean while sun bathing on Ocracoke’s countless, pristine beach. The picture evokes a feeling of relaxation.

Ocracoke, NC (PRWEB) November 27, 2009 -- An “Elph” helped Aris Wakefield Michelsen win the Grand Prize in the Ocracoke Island Realty 2009 Photo Contest. She used a Canon Digital Elph camera to capture a powerful image of her sand-covered feet propped up in front of the ocean while sun bathing on Ocracoke’s countless, pristine beach. The picture evokes a feeling of relaxation. Michelsen, a current resident of Atlanta and former resident of Urbana, Virginia, was awarded a two-night stay at [The Castle on Silver Lake](#), a unique and historic Bed and Breakfast in the heart of Ocracoke Village.

“The shot was taken while I was on an all-girl’s vacation for a week on lovely Ocracoke Island,” Michelsen said. “It’s just me, looking at my favorite view, the ocean.

“I put my toes in the shot so that no matter where I was, I could feel like I was there,” she said. “I always want to come back, of course.

“This photo is my screen saver and everyone that sees it, loves it -- lucky me!” Michelsen said.

There were a handful of runners up in the contest, which was judged by the staff of Ocracoke Island Realty. [Ocracoke Island Realty](#) sponsored the 2009 Photo Contest. No purchase was required to enter and they received hundreds of excellent photographs from visitors. The contest was so popular that the vacation rental company will be holding another one next year.

All honorable mentions were given \$100 off a future stay with Ocracoke Island Realty along with a pair of weekly bike rentals.

Those runners up photos featured fishing, children, surfing and the ferry.

Maggie Moore of Amelia, Va. entered a colorful shot titled: “Anxiously awaiting Ocracoke.” It features three boys standing at the bow of the ferry while looking out over the water to Ocracoke Island.

Greg Genrich of Morristown, N.J. submitted a photo of a girl near the inlet looking out at schooner under sail.

“This is a photo of my daughter, Elyse,” he said. “One evening we were taking a walk and happened to see the Windfall right at sunset.

“Her orange skirt, the light and the Windfall’s sails made the composition just about perfect,” Genrich said.



Lynne Dardanell of Summerville, N.C. entered “Beach Loungers,” featuring a young girl in a white beach hat sitting in an orange chair next to her dad.

Jeannette Pucella, who gives her address as sailing vessel “Puff” at Ocracoke or the Bahamas, captured an interesting shot of a local girls walking down the beach with surf boards.

The group is colorful, the sand is white, the waves are gentle and the sky is royal blue.

And last but not least, Earl Bumbaugh of Mount Union, Pa. submitted “Joe Fishing.” Well known for its great fishing, many Ocracoke beaches are accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Bumbaugh’ photo shows Joe next to his truck with a fishing rod in the water and an American Flag flying proudly nearby.

For reservation information please call Ocracoke Island Realty at 1-877-646-2822 or visit the website at www.OcracokeIslandRealty.com. Secure online booking is available 24/7.

Read More about the [Photo Contest](#)

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Contact Information

Jeannie Maynard

Ocracoke Island Realty

<http://www.OcracokeIslandRealty.com>

252-480-4752

Online Web 2.0 Version

You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





SNL Data Shows P&C Insurers Report Slight Underwriting Gain in Third-Quarter 2009

Although reported losses fell 15.7% year-over-year, heightened declines in earned premiums written kept profitability modest.

Charlottesville, VA (Vocus) November 24, 2009 -- [A preliminary review by SNL Financial](#) of third-quarter statutory financial data for U.S. property and casualty insurers found modest improvement in underwriting profitability and additional stabilization through realized and unrealized capital gains.

With data available for nearly 88% of expected P&C filers, the industry (excluding financial and mortgage guarantor companies) is on pace to report a \$536.0 million underwriting gain in the third quarter, an encouraging sign when compared to the \$7.7 billion loss the industry experienced during the same period in 2008. Losses and expenses totaled \$93.7 million, down from \$107.2 million in third-quarter 2008. The loss ratio, defined as losses and LAE (loss adjustment expense) to net premiums written, fell by nearly 9 percentage points to 71.7%.

"Fortunately for P&C insurers, there was no Hurricane Gustav or Ike this season," said Jon Wright, director of the insurance group at SNL. "With the economy still weak and premiums written dropping off further, it was very fortunate that catastrophic losses were minimal. The soft market has to continue at this point with an industry seemingly flush with surplus capital."

The combined ratio for third-quarter 2009 was 99.1% and realized capital gains topped \$458.8 million, an improvement when compared to 107.4% and losses of \$6.7 billion, respectively, for the year-ago period. However, overall profitability was tempered by a decline in net premiums earned, down 5.2% year-over-year.

SNL's statutory insurance data, available exclusively as part of SNL Unlimited service for Financial Institutions, includes detailed financial data on each filer, reinsurance, investment and loss reserve schedules, data by state and line of business and hundreds of ratios, snapshots and analytics. SNL is the only information provider to offer clients a comprehensive insurance product, linking statutory data with public company data, mergers & acquisitions data, proprietary news, documents and more. To find out more, contact [sales\(at\)snl\(dot\)com](mailto:sales(at)snl(dot)com) or call 866.296.3743.

About SNL Financial

SNL collects, standardizes and disseminates all relevant corporate, financial, market and M&A data - plus news and analysis - for the Banking, Financial Services, Insurance, Real Estate, Energy and Media & Communications industries. For more information, visit www.SNL.com.

Visit the [SNL Press Room](#) to learn more about resources available to members of the media.

SNL Contact
Monica Jenkins



Press Relations Manager
+1.434.951.6951

SNL Financial
One SNL Plaza
Charlottesville, VA 22902
+1.434.977.1600

Other office locations:
Ahmedabad, India; Arlington, Va.; Boston, Mass.; Boulder, Colo.; Islamabad, Pakistan; Jersey City, N.J.;
London; Monterey, Calif.; New York.

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Contact Information

Monica Jenkins

<http://www.snl.com>

434-951-6951

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

News Image





Killington Vermont Launches Website to Promote Tourism with Contest to Win Killington Winter Getaway for Two

Website www.discoverkillington.com is part of an ongoing effort by the Town of Killington Vermont Economic Development and Tourism Commission to increase year 'round tourism in the town of Killington. Killington, Vermont is known as the best ski area in the east, with Killington Resort being known as the Beast of The East. The new website, www.discoverkillington.com is part of strategic plan to promote the Town of Killington, Vermont as a four season outdoor enthusiast's delight. The website launches with an ongoing promotional contest offering a chance to win a Killington Vermont getaway for 2. Visit www.discoverkillington.com for details and more information about Killington Vermont.

Killington, VT (PRWEB) November 26, 2009 -- Killington, Vermont is known for great skiing and snowboarding, but the town is also home to an abundance of other recreational and wellness opportunities. As part of an ongoing strategy to attract four-season visitors, the town has launched www.DiscoverKillington.com . Sponsored by the town Economic Development and Tourism Commission (EDTC) the new site kicks off with an online contest in which visitors to the site may enter for a chance to win a 'Discover Killington Winter Getaway for Two.'

“Explore, Discover, Thrive is the message we’re delivering to the marketplace about the Town of Killington,” said Jeanne Karlhuber, Chair of the Killington Vermont EDTC.

“For decades Killington has been known as a great place to enjoy winter, but we want visitors to know that Killington is equally vibrant, exciting and fulfilling year ‘round.’”

The site www.DiscoverKillington.com is easily navigated to showcase Killington’s seasons in brilliant images. The site provides information on vacation and getaway packages as well as the endless activities, events and festivals awaiting Killington visitors. Through the email-newsletter, local businesses are offered the opportunity to offer exclusive discounts and promotions directly to consumers who sign-up for the Discover Killington Community.

“Discoverkillington.com is a collaborative effort between the Town and its businesses to build our tourism and travel business,” continued Karlhuber. “Beginning with our support and promotion of Killington Resort’s skiing and riding to the many new events the Town is staging to the incredible variety of recreational activities and dining and lodging establishments, we want potential Vermont visitors to discover what Killington has in store for them during every season.”

Visit www.discoverkillington.com for details.

Enter for a chance to win a Killington Vermont Winter Vacation at:

<http://www.discoverkillington.com/discover-killington/discover-killington-community>

For more information contact Dariece Kirby-Kline at [Dariece\(at\)town.killington.vt.us](mailto:Dariece(at)town.killington.vt.us)



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Contact Information

Dariece Kirby-Kline

<http://www.discoverkillington.com>

802-422-2185

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

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Climate Change Puts Trillions of Dollars in Assets at Risk Along U.S. Coasts

New report commissioned by WWF and Allianz assesses potential economic consequences of key “tipping points” by mid-century; warns of particularly large exposure along U.S. northeast coast

Washington, DC (Vocus) November 23, 2009 -- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the leading insurer Allianz SE released a [report](#) today warning that sea level rise could dramatically increase risks to buildings, transportation infrastructure and other assets exposed to severe storm surges in coastal areas of the U.S. The study estimates that current assets at risk to a 1-in-100-year storm surge amount to \$1.4 trillion. A mid-century global sea level rise of 0.5 meters (20 inches), with an additional 0.15 meter (6 inches) localized rise along the northeast U.S. coast, could jeopardize assets worth close to \$7.4 trillion.

“With each new study, the alarm bells become deafeningly clear that climate change will have devastating consequences for our economy and way of life,” said David Reed, senior vice president of policy at WWF. “Time to address this issue is growing short. Recognizing the increased threats this report raises for our domestic economy, the President must go to Copenhagen in December to unite with the rest of the world and avert the worst consequences of climate change.”

Among the U.S. cities with the greatest risk exposure in mid-century are Miami (\$2.8 trillion), New York-Newark (\$1.8 trillion), New Orleans (\$753 billion), Boston (\$463 billion), Virginia Beach (\$462 billion) and Tampa-St Petersburg (\$414 billion).

The report examined more closely the potential costs of a Category 4 hurricane landfall for New York City. In a comprehensive analysis that included more than just storm surge [impacts](#), the authors estimated current assets at risk from a strong hurricane at \$1 trillion. With sea-level rise and further development in the region, this could exceed \$5 trillion by mid-century.

The report, ‘Major Tipping Points in the Earth’s Climate System and Consequences for the Insurance Sector’ was written by Tim Lenton and Anthony Footitt at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research; and Andrew Dlugolecki at Andlug Consulting (all in the U.K.). A tipping point is a critical point at which a relatively small incremental change in a component of the Earth system has big consequences. The report focuses on four tipping points that are policy-relevant and are most likely to have impacts within (or beginning by) the middle of this century as a result of the rapid increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. For each tipping point, the report attempts to quantify the economic costs and the assets at risk. They include:

1. Sea level rise. Globally, a 0.5 meter (20 inches) sea level rise (with somewhat higher levels along U.S. northeast coast) could increase the value of at-risk assets in 136 key coastal cities worldwide by up to \$28 trillion.
2. Increased Aridity in Southwest North America. The region is likely to be affected by droughts and levels of aridity similar to the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. In California alone, this would result in major impacts on water resources, agriculture and wildfires. The annual damages caused by wildfires could be tenfold compared to today’s costs and could reach up to \$2.5 billion per year by 2050, and up to \$14 billion annually by 2085.

3. Shifts in the Indian Monsoon. Shifts in the monsoon coupled with the melting of Himalayan glaciers could “increase the likelihood, severity and exposure of populations and the economy to potentially devastating conditions within the first half of this century with implications for water resources, health, and food security, and major economic implications not only for India but for economies regionally and worldwide.”

4. Dieback of the Amazon Rainforest. Dieback of the Amazon rainforest could reach 70% by the end of the century as a consequence of a significant increase in the frequency of droughts in the Amazon basin. The impacts include loss of biodiversity and massive releases of carbon to the atmosphere. Costs could range well into the trillions of dollars, depending on the degree of warming.

Global temperatures have already risen by at least 0.7 ° C (1.3° F) above pre-industrial levels, and because of past emissions, we are committed to at least another 0.6 ° C (1.1° F) of warming beyond that. Global warming above 2-3 ° C (3.6° -5.4° F) degrees in the second half of the century is likely, unless very aggressive efforts to reduce emissions are initiated now and unless emissions are in rapid decline by 2020. As global temperatures increase beyond 2 ° C (3.6° F), we substantially increase the likelihood that these and other tipping points will be reached, with catastrophic consequences.

“Much of the debate in the U.S. over [climate change](#) has focused on the costs of actions to reduce emissions,” added Reed. “The findings of this report highlight the enormous costs of doing nothing.”

Allianz intends to initiate dialogues with its clients on climate change to identify timely responses.

“As an insurer and investor, we must prepare our clients for these scenarios as long as we still have leeway for action,” said Scott Steinmetz, PE, AVP Corporate Risk Governance, Fireman's Fund Insurance, a company of Allianz. “Setting premiums risk-appropriately and sustainably is of vital interest to everyone involved, because this is the only way to ensure that coverage solutions will continue to exist.”

Multimedia (maps, videos, images)

http://knowledge.allianz.com/climate_tipping_points/climate_en.html

The Report and the Executive Summary can be found at:

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/plugin_tp_final_report.pdf

To view a video on climate tipping points, go to

http://knowledge.allianz.com/climate_tipping_points/climate_en.html

About World Wildlife Fund

WWF is the world’s leading conservation organization, working in 100 countries for nearly half a century. With the support of almost 5 million members worldwide, WWF is dedicated to delivering science-based solutions to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth, halt the degradation of the environment and combat climate change. Visit www.worldwildlife.org to learn more.

About Allianz

Allianz SE is member of Transparency International Germany and supports the Principles of the United Nations



Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinationals through its Code of Conduct. Allianz SE is one of the leaders of the insurance sector in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, listed in FTSE4GOOD and in the Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (Carbon Disclosure Project, CDP6).

About Fireman's Fund

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal and commercial insurance products nationwide. It is rated 'AA-' by Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group, the world's largest provider of property and casualty insurance. For additional information, visit www.firemansfund.com.

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Contact Information

Monica Echeverria

<http://www.worldwildlife.org>

202-495 4626

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).

Eight Low-cost Ways to Stay Warm This Winter: Tip Sheet from Cuddl Duds

Tips from Cuddl Duds on ways to turn down the thermostat while staying cozy indoors.

New York, NY (PRWEB) November 24, 2009 -- As the weather outside turns frightful for much of the United States, there are some easy, low-cost things you can do to stay warm and cozy at home, while saving money by turning down the thermostat.

Tips from [Cuddl Duds](#) on ways to turn down the thermostat while staying cozy indoors:

1) Layer it On

One of best, most cost-efficient and eco-friendly ways to stay toasty warm is to wear a lightweight base layer underneath your clothing. Cuddl Duds, the country's number one brand of warm underwear, offers a wide-range of modern, stylish options including silky soft bamboo and temperature-regulating performance fabrics. All of their garments are incredibly soft, and promise to take the chill off.

2) A Bottle to Bed

Using far less energy than an electric blanket or space heater, bringing a hot water bottle to bed can help you keep your body temperature warm on cold nights all winter long. It's also great for warming your hands and feet while lounging about the house.

3) Seal it Up

Check your home for air leaks and drafts to make sure warm air isn't escaping. Also, seal off any vents in unused rooms so you aren't paying for heated air you aren't using.

4) Let the Sun Shine In

Take advantage of the sun by making sure the window treatments are open on the side of the house where it's shining... and close the ones on the opposite side. Follow the sun throughout the day, opening and closing accordingly to maximize the benefits from the sun, and minimizing heat loss.

5) Soups On

Drink warm beverages, broth and soups to elevate your body temperature. Also, baking things in the oven can help to heat the kitchen to help keep you warm.

6) Humidity Helps

Increase humidity in the air for more comfort (humidity holds heat and can raise the apparent temperature in your home a lot). Take a hot shower, use a humidifier, and keep a kettle boiling throughout the day.

7) Move it, Move it!

Not only will it help you stay in shape for when the weather finally defrosts, but it raises your body temperature and warms you from the inside out. A good workout produces body heat and the effects will last long after the



session is over.

8) Fan Club

Most people know that heat rises, but a little secret is that turning on a ceiling fan can actually help to push that heat back down into the room. So the warm air heats your body, and not the air above your head.

ABOUT CUDDL DUDS

Cuddl Duds (www.cuddlduds.com) is the nation's top-selling brand of warm underwear and a leader in fabric technology, innovation and quality. Each and every garment that Cuddl Duds brings to market has been thoughtfully-designed to underscore the Cuddl Duds promise... helping consumers feel good from the inside out.

Headquartered in New York City, Cuddl Duds is a wholly owned subsidiary of Komar. Established in 1908, Komar is a privately held intimate apparel company that markets and distributes women's sleepwear, loungewear, bras and lingerie. Today Komar is a progressive company with a global sourcing network that includes factories in fourteen countries and state-of-the-art distribution facilities.

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Contact Information

Tracy Teitelbaum

<http://www.cuddlduds.com>

847.267.9500

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You can read the online version of this press release [here](#).



Blinds Chalet Announces \$50.00 Rebate on Insulating Blinds

Blinds Chalet offers \$50.00 incentive to help homeowners prepare for winter.

Phoenix, AZ (Vocus) November 23, 2009 -- Ten percent of air leaks out of poorly insulated windows. Insulating windows can reduce energy bills by up to 30%, which is why Blinds Chalet is offering a \$50.00 rebate on both their Light Filtering Insulating Blinds and Room Darkening Insulating Blinds in time for the winter season.

Both insulating the Light Filtering [Insulating Window Blinds](#) and Room Darkening [Insulating Window Blinds](#) are Greenguard Certified. Greenguard is an industry independent non-profit organization. The purpose of Greenguard is to establish an indoor air standard to improve public health and quality of life through products that improve indoor air.

Light Filtering Insulating Blinds operate like a blind with the appearance of a soft fabric shade. The 1 inch cells trap cold air between the window and the room. For sunny rooms, the blinds compress to allow daylight and warmth in, closing at night to trap warm air in the house. Room Darkening Insulating Blinds offer the same insulating quality as the light filtering blinds but offer more light control.

“We are offering a discount on these blinds to encourage customers to take another look at these horizontal fabric shades,” says Chris Stanley of Blinds Chalet. “It is a good time of year to consider investing in insulating blinds. These blinds provide energy efficiency in both winter and summer seasons.”

For more information on Blinds Chalet or current trends in the industry contact Chris Stanley at info (at) blindschalet (dot) com or by phone at: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840. Or visit Blinds Chalet online at www.blindschalet.com.

Contact: Chris Stanley

Company: Blinds Chalet

www.BlindsChalet.com

Phone: 1-888-633-7840 or 480-633-7840

Email: info (at) blindschalet (dot) com

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Contact Information

Chris Stanley

Blinds Chalet

<http://www.BlindsChalet.com>

1-888-633-7840

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