



DPI Investigator

August 2017

Worth Repeating

Subrogation Potential After Catastrophic Events

The final 2017 Atlantic Hurricane forecast predicts a more active remaining season.



Subrogation opportunities exist when acts of nature cause destruction and damage to homes and buildings. Starting in the mid 1980s, the construction industry was building homes at an excessive rate. The average time frame to construct a home from start to finish was 42 to 50 days.

To meet these schedules, multiple subcontractors were involved in the process. Many times, the subcontractors would fail to follow the existing building codes. This practice resulted in many buildings being prone to failure during catastrophic events where high winds or wind gusts were present.

Subcontractors are required to carry insurance for professional performance in regards to following construction codes. If construction codes are not followed, there may be subrogation potential. You may also consider that the debris from the failed buildings can cause additional damage to other nearby structures.

Structural engineering skills are not always needed to determine if roofing material or plywood fasteners were properly installed. In many locations you would also review the anchoring of the roof truss and plate fastening to the foundation.

Did You Know?

Our technical and support staff average 10+ years of experience in their related fields. Some employees have children who are showing an interest in product failure analysis by pursuing degrees in engineering, participating in summer employment at DPI and by getting "into" their work at home.



Do we know supply lines! Since 1995 we have inspected 13,112!

Heat-Related Illness

The EPA states, "Heat-related illnesses can occur when a person is exposed to high temperatures, such that their body cannot cool itself sufficiently through sweating. Symptoms range from mild swelling, rashes or cramps to potentially deadly heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat is the leading weather-related killer in the United States."

Heat-related illness can be prevented by remaining in a cool or well-ventilated space, avoiding excessive physical exertion, wearing light-colored clothing, eating smaller meals more often or drinking extra fluids, preferably at least eight ounces of water or diluted fruit drinks each hour.

With our very own state being ranked number eight in the nation for heat-related deaths, we took it upon ourselves to ensure that our delivery drivers and employees, who often work outside, stay hydrated by installing a well-stocked refrigerator for their use.

Enjoy your summer and stay **cool!**



Stop by Booth 507 at the PLRB Central Regional Adjusters Conference 9/5-7/2017 and Booth 205 at the PLRB Eastern Regional Adjusters Conference 10/3-5/2017 for your complimentary **S.T.P.** sticker.



School Starts Soon - What's in the Water?

With most schools starting soon, NSF International, a global public health and safety organization, recently published a number of articles relating to [lead in schools](#) and [school's plumbing compliance](#). The articles are worth reading, and you may wish to inquire with your school district about its compliance.

We helped these clients find money – let us help YOU!

\$UCCESSFUL \$UBROGATION HIGHLIGHT\$

Evidence	Claim	Recovered	Inspection Charges
S/S Braided Supply Line	\$61,676	\$55,000	\$442
Fuel Oil Furnace	\$49,000	\$40,000	\$3,037
Toilet	\$49,396	\$22,977	\$1,100
Polymer Braided Supply Line	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$5,425
Resin Tank	\$22,493	\$9,361	\$675

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Training News

DPI's free *Product Awareness and Subrogation Training* focuses on the subrogation process from the perspective of the failure analysis expert along with discussion of common product failures. From discovery to recovery, that includes a review of chain of custody, spoliation and why claims should be subrogated. The session is appropriate for new adjusters and a refresher for experienced adjusters.

The free one-hour session is approved for CE credit in:

Florida – one credit hour "CE 3-24c – Adjuster Optional"

Texas – one general credit hour for course number 95114

California – one credit hour for course number 328294 – Property and Casualty (FX)

Wyoming – one general credit hour for course number 26560.

For additional information or to schedule training, complete the request form [here](#) or call our Customer Service Department at (800) 865-6220.



Trending Now - Recall Alert

August 2017

Trending Now at DPI

The dog days of summer are upon us, and the **hot topic** here at DPI is Class Action Lawsuit Settlements. The two most prominent names in those settlements right now are Watts and BrassCraft. Watts supply lines with distinctive markings on the coupling nut or crimp sleeve (left and middle below) have been part of an ongoing settlement. Meanwhile, most BrassCraft products manufactured with brass – go figure – have been named in a separate settlement (DPI has inspected many failed shutoff valves like the one pictured below right).

In addition, another Watts settlement is pending concerning their Water Heater Connectors and ironically named “FloodSafe” water supply lines. Both of these products and their defects are well-known in the halls of DPI. When more information becomes available, you may rest assured knowing that DPI will give you the details needed to make your subrogation decision.

Product markings on coupling nut base



[Recall Alert Number 17-094](#) (click to view recall on cpsc.gov)

Carrier Expands Recall of Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps Due to Fire Hazard

Recall date: February 23, 2017 **Name of product:** Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTAC) and Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps (PTHP)

Hazard: The power cord plug of the packaged terminal air conditioners (PTAC) and packaged terminal heat pumps (PTHP) can overheat, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Units: About 94,000 (in addition, about 285,000 were previously recalled in December 2015 and 185,000 were previously recalled in November 2007)

Description: This expanded recall involves Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (PTAC) and Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps (PTHP) sold under the Bryant, Carrier and Fast brand names. Recalled units include those with original power cords and those that received a replacement power cord as part of the 2007 recall.

The recalled units have capacities of 7,000; 9,000; 12,000 and 15,000 BTUs and plug into 208/230 volt outlets. The following brands and eight models are being recalled:

- Carrier models 52CE, 52CQ, 52PE, 52PQ, 52PC, 52ME, 52MQ;
- Bryant models 840, 841, and 842; and
- Fast models 840, 841, and 842.



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Recall Alert (cont'd)

August 2017

[Recall Alert Number 17-094](#) (click to view recall on cpsc.gov)

Model and serial numbers are located on the ratings/data plate on the right front of the unit, underneath the removable front panel. A complete list of the serial numbers involved in this recall is available by calling Carrier or at www.carrier.com.

Incidents/Injuries: Carrier has received 14 additional reports of overheating. No injuries have been reported in the additional incidents.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using and unplug the recalled units and contact Carrier to receive a free replacement cord.

Sold at: HVAC dealers and factory-direct sales nationwide from January 2002 through December 2009 for between \$425 and \$675.

Manufactured in: Mexico and China.

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Check
Inspection
Status

