SMART VENT
Foundation Flood Vents

PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED BY:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smart Vent Foundation Flood Vent Installed In Breakaway Walls Save Homeowners Thousands of Dollars

Dan and Dottie Sluka purchased land in Mary Esther, Florida a few miles east of Pensacola with a view of the Santa Rosa Sound and the Gulf of Mexico and began building their dream home on the property in 2000.

Wanting to construct their home to exceed the building codes administered by the county, the Sluka's asked their builder to use the most recent edition of the code issued by the International Code Council (ICC). They wanted to take every precaution to ensure the safety of their home from the possible hurricanes the area was prone to.

The Sluka's property is located in a mapped floodplain (Zone AE) just about 1,000 feet from the water. They decided to build to the V Zone standards, using wooden pilings to strengthen the structure of the home against storm surge and to raise the main part of the house several feet higher than the minimum height required by the city.

In 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Florida Panhandle and although the Sluka's home performed as designed, the breakaway walls tore away and everything stored inside was destroyed. In terms of damage to the building, high winds caused minor siding damage. Yet, Dan estimates that is cost about $24,000 to repair the flood damage, half of which was to replace the breakaway walls. His NFIP flood insurance policy covered a few thousand dollars toward some damage to the building, but no coverage for the stored belongings. The Sluka's out-of-pocket loss was approximately $20,000.

Upon rebuilding, Dan did extensive research on hydrostatic pressure and discovered that Smart Vent manufactures the only certified engineered foundation flood vent that could help limit future damage and prevent the breakaway walls from failing so easily.

Dan had the builder install the Smart Vent foundation flood vent when replacing the breakaway walls.

All SMART VENT® products are certified engineered openings providing an automatic entry and exit of floodwaters that release hydrostatic pressure yielded upon foundations and breakaway walls during flooding. The indestructible vents have two patented floats that automatically release with rising water and open the bi-directional flood door rotating it out of the path of flood water, providing the required 3" diameter of completely unobstructed open area for flood water to enter and exit.

Dan's research on Smart Vent paid off when Hurricane Dennis hit in 2005, flooding his neighborhood. Although 3 _ feet of water entered the storage area through the flood vents, the breakaway walls remained intact and un-damaged. "The Smart Vent's worked as designed.

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The water entered and exited the storage area through the vent openings and there was no structural damage to the walls of the enclosed space. As a result, the damage was limited to dirt residue on the floor." States Dan Sluka.

"We were very fortunate to have sustained very little damage as a result of the hurricane. I believe the installation and normal functioning of the Smart Vent's were a factor in limiting the damage to our home."

SMART VENT® foundation flood vent features include all stainless steel construction that meet or exceed flood and corrosion resistance code requirements, easy to clean stainless steel mesh screens that keep unwanted pests from invading and weather-stripped insulated doors that minimize heat and air conditioning loss. Additionally, each SMART VENT® protects 200 square feet of area below the base flood elevation, thus requiring 2/3 less vents than any other vent on the market, increasing the aesthetic appearance of a home dramatically.

Because Smart Vents® are code compliant, FEMA accepted and ICC-ES Evaluated, homeowners across the country are not only protecting their home from the devastation and destruction caused by natural disasters, they are also realizing huge savings on their NFIP insurance premiums after installing Smart Vents®. Smart Vents® not only bring their homes into compliance, but provide substantial savings.

For more information on the SMART VENT® foundation flood vent, winner of the prestigious 2007 Most Innovative Product Award by attendees of the World of Concrete Show, MVP Award and Top 100 Products honors from Building Products magazine, Product of the Year by the editors of DO! Magazine and most recently approved by the Florida Building Code Commission, please contact Smart Vent at 877-441-8368 or visit www.smartvent.com

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