

Recovery from a Flood – Boiler Safety Alert for Owners and Operators

With the recent flooding occurring due to the weather conditions, the Mechanical Inspection Bureau of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Compliance (BB&PVC) would like to notify all local government, state agencies and stakeholders concerning boiler equipment damage caused by high waters. The safe operation of boiler systems is impacted when the electrical systems, controls and safety devices become inundated with water. In extreme cases such events can partially or totally submerge these systems causing malfunction or catastrophic consequences. Proper corrective action must be taken to mitigate any potentially hazardous condition that may result from a flood. While every possible scenario or failure cannot be anticipated, professional care and attention must be utilized to assess any equipment damage.

The BB&PVC is providing several links to articles from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors, (NBBPVI) and The Hartford Steam Boiler and Insurance Company (HSB). The articles typify the most reasonable action that the BB&PVC would specify for placing a boiler back in service after a flood. Most insurance companies will have similar articles.

The NBBPVI article "Recovering Boiler Systems After a Flood" was originally published in the August 1993 National Board Infoletter to assist people in the safe recovery of boiler systems affected by flooding. Link is:

<http://www.nationalboard.org/NationaBoardNews.aspx?NewsPageID=335>

The "Flood Recovery Alert" is published by HSB. Link is: <http://www.hsb.com/cmsfiles/732.pdf>

The BB&PVC recommends that a company authorized as a manufacturer's representative, a National Board or New Jersey Authorized repair firm be used to assess the condition of a boiler. An owner should also work closely with their boiler and machinery insurance agent. FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS INFORMATION, please contact the BB&PVC by calling (609) 292-2921 or email at BPVRCompliance@dol.state.nj.us. To report an emergency situation related to your boiler, pressure vessel or refrigeration under the jurisdiction of the BB&PVC please call (609) 984-0626.