

# NEW ENGLAND REAL ESTATE JOURNAL

## SAFETY & SECURITY

By Peter Davey, American Window Film, Inc.

**NEW ENGLAND PREPARES FOR HURRICANE HIT...  
With Shatter-resistant 3M™ Scotchshield™  
Safety & Security Window Films**

"Given the weather patterns across North America, we believe the Northeast will be vulnerable to a hurricane hit this summer," said Bernie J. Rayno, a meteorologist at the AccuWeather Hurricane Center in Pennsylvania, this week. "We're predicting that two or three major hurricanes will hit the Eastern Seaboard, from the Outer Banks (of North Carolina) to southern New England over the next 10 years, and we think it will be sooner rather than later. [The Republican (online), "Forecasters Bid Northeast Brace", Stan Freeman, June 2, 2006].

Certainly, the Northeast is not immune to natural or man-made catastrophic events. Recently good, old-fashioned Yankee common sense has been guiding building owners and facilities managers to invest in shatter-resistant 3M™ Scotchshield™ Safety & Security Window Films for perimeter windows to mitigate the destructive effects of severe weather, explosive blasts, and vandalism, and their associated impact on business continuity. Compared to the expense of glass replacement, retrofitting with security window film offers an affordable option for improving safety. Efficient and professionally trained installers provide minimum interruption to production activities. The added benefits of reduced heating, cooling and HVAC maintenance expenses provide good reasons for facilities managers to justify their investment on future energy cost savings.

Most of us have experienced the invisible shield of protection that 3M security films provide. Many commercial buildings (banks, airports and fed-

eral buildings) have security film already installed. We rarely hear about security window film installations since building owners are reluctant to suggest that any of us are vulnerable inside their facility. I might argue that knowledge of safety measures in place is both reassuring to our community and a deterrent to many who seek to do us harm.

3M Company, an ISO9002 certified manufacturer, issued the first patent on window film in 1966. 3M is the only window film manufacturer that produces their own raw materials such as polyesters, adhesives, metals and scratch-resistant coatings. Their films meet ANSI Z97 and CPSC glazing standards, and 3M's patented multiple micro layer technology, to enhance tensile strength and elongation, has contributed to their longevity in the field. They are a durable, tear-resistant series of polyester films that provide high optical clarity. Their construction delivers superior performance over



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standard polyester films in blast and impact mitigation due to its ability to absorb shock.

The 3M™ Ultraflex Sealant System is a strong safety and security installation system. It combines the strength and elasticity of 3M Scotchshield™ Safety and Security Window Film with Dow Corning™ 995 Silicone Structural Sealant. The combination creates a flexible membrane that captures and absorbs impact energy allowing the frame to bend and twist to accommodate a variety of impact stresses. It is a more cost-effective system when compared to more bulky mechanical attachment alternatives.

Weather patterns are changing and conditions are right for a hurricane to hit New England. Even if we luck out and remain outside the path of a hurricane this year, high winds, far less than hurricane force, can shatter panes of glass. Though troubled by the threat of violent weather along with the tenor of the times, I'm reassured to know that there are products on the market manufactured to minimize injuries, damage to property, and loss of business continuity. An installation of 3M Scotchshield Safety & Security Window Film is plain and simple: good old-fashioned Yankee common sense.

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