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Eastern Insurance Acquires Three Insurance Firms

NATICK, April 25, 2006 – Eastern Insurance Group LLC in Natick announced today the recent acquisitions of three insurance firms to its growing company. Howland Insurance in Rockland, South River Insurance Agency in Marshfield, and McAlpine Insurance Agency in Centerville became the latest companies to be acquired by Eastern Insurance as part of that agency's strategic growth plan.

Howland Insurance, originally founded in 1851, was integrated into Eastern Insurance's Rockland office in March. Doug Cole, president of Howland Insurance, along with John Priest and Geraldine Munroe will work in that location.

Ted Foster, president of South River, along with Denny Kennedy and Jeanne Bowes, will be working in the Plymouth office. John McAlpine, president of McAlpine Insurance, will relocate to the Yarmouth office while Denise McAlpine will work in Eastern Insurance's Quincy location.

"We are delighted to add the experienced and talented teams from Howland, South River, and McAlpine to our group," Hope Aldrich, president and CEO of Eastern Insurance said. "We feel that this is a great move for all involved, particularly for the customers of these agencies."

Eastern Insurance also entered into a brokerage agreement with Willows Insurance Agency in North Andover. Broker Paul Routhier will be based out of Eastern Insurance's Andover office, where he will team up with former Willows employee, Suzanne Casey, an account manager at Eastern Insurance.

Founded in 1935 and headquartered in Natick, Eastern Insurance Group LLC is one of the largest insurance agencies in the nation, serving more than 65,000 consumers and businesses. Eastern Insurance provides a full range of personal and commercial insurance products, and employee benefits services including group health and life insurance, disability insurance, and 401(k) planning. A subsidiary of Eastern Bank, Eastern Insurance has 21 offices, including 19 in Massachusetts. For more information, visit www.easterninsurance.com.

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