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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Baltimore, Maryland (April 7, 2006)** The National Oilheat Research Alliance and Institute for Business & Home and Safety organized a seminar for homeowner insurance carriers, environmental consultants and others responsible for managing environmental contamination associated with releases from heating oil tanks.

The first panel was Fred Cunningham from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Chuck Schwer from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation shared why their state trust fund have been so successful over the years. Both shared details on the programs' management practices, the cost containment strategies and philosophies. The two speakers have nearly 50 years of experience in managing claims and protecting the environment.

The second panel was Jill Haimson from Preferred Environmental Services and John Donohue from Petroleum Equipment Contractors Association. These two individuals are the leading experts in managing site remediation. The pair discussed their guidelines, thought process for analyzing situation, how do they ensure that the state environmental departments are satisfied.

The third panel was Jim Rocco from Sage Risk Solutions has help developed the methodology for risk based corrective actions and worked with the national Environmental Protection Agency. He lectured on composition and characteristics of heating oil, the potential impact, structured risk-based decisions, and issues/ factor to consider.

This seminar provided the foundation for establishing a protocol for claims management that will lower costs and lead to better resolutions.

All presentations and a complete biography of speakers are posted on NORA Bulletin Board at <http://www.nora-oilheat.org/bb/index.php>.

