

PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIMANT STATEMENT
CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVE / RISK MANAGER
ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
295 MAIN STREET – ROOM 350
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14203-2494
(716) 849-8465– TELEPHONE
(716) 849-8463 - FAX

Property Damage Claim :

Claimant Name	Joseph and Catherine Zoladz		
Address	14 Breezewood Common, East Amherst 14051	Zip Code	14051
Home Phone #	716- [REDACTED]	Work Phone #	716- [REDACTED]

Accident / Damage Location	14 Breezewood Common and environs		
Date of Incident	October 4 th , 2020	Time of Incident	7 a.m. / p.m.
Police Contacted?	Called 911 and referred to water and fire dept	Police Report Taken?	No
What Agency?	Fireman came and inspected flooded basement		

If this is not your property, give the name and address of the owner:

N/A if not applicable

Name	NA		
Address		Zip Code	
Home Phone #		Work Phone #	

Repair Estimates: \$10,000 to \$40,000

Witness(es), if available

Name	Jacqueline Buffon	Name	Barbara Rybak
Address	865 West End Avenue NY NY 10025	Address	10 Breezewood Common, East Amherst 14051
Phone	917- [REDACTED]	Phone	716- [REDACTED]

Claimant's Statement (please be specific):

Around 7am Sunday morning 0/4/2020, our neighbor called and said her basement was flooded and the entire outside was also flooded. My daughter was staying with us and went down to the basement where the water was ankle deep and up to the first step of the entire basement. When we looked outside, the entire front yard and driveway were covered in water up to the steps of the front door, and also spreading into the garage. We couldn't open the garage door due to the water against the door. Out the window, we saw up the street water gushing out of a watermain break – coming up like a geyser. We called 911 who transferred us to the water authority and then to the fire department. The fire dept. arrived and inspected the basement, while it was flooding, shut off the pilot lights and made sure all the electrical appliances were unplugged. He said that it had been busy in our neighborhood because there was a fire the night before up the street. When I asked

My neighbor had also called the ECWA and someone came out to shut off the water around 8:45am. Once the water was shut off, the water in the basement receded and was gone save for residual silt and dirt around 12:00 pm. Around 12:45 we saw a remediation crew working on the spot of the break and my daughter spoke with Ron Schultz, who was supervising the work. Upon observation my daughter noticed that the house that had the fire was about 100 yards from where the watermain break occurred. The supervisor said there could be a relationship between the fire and watermain break. We called 3 clean up services – Servepro came in the morning while the water was still rising and they said they could not go down to the basement while the water was still in the basement. Clean MD came in the afternoon after the water receded and took photos to create an estimate. We ended up having them complete the clean up of the basement, which they did on Friday October 9th and Monday October 12th. On the evening of October 4th, my daughter and I cleaned up the outside of our property – disinfecting the inside of the garage and driveway, as well as the front walkway and deck leading to the front door. The silt was very difficult to remove and we spent over 4 hours working on it along with our neighbors. We also called Niagara Fuel to see if it was safe to relight the pilot lights because we smelled gas in the basement. The worker from Niagara Fuel said that we had a gas leak and we needed to contact a plumber immediately and she could not light either pilot lights, but turned off the gas so we had no hot water and no heat.

On Monday, October 5th we called a plumber from _____ who came to inspect the furnace and hot water heater. He dried out the furnace and lit the pilot light. The mechanism in the hot water heater was soaked so he could not start the hot water. We were without hot water from Sunday through Wednesday 10/7/2020.

Other people we contacted were:

*Debra Kucia, the operations manager at clover management that manages the Evergreen complex. She said that the association doesn't handle the damage claims, and that we should

contact our insurance and the ECWA. She gave us the names for ECWA

*Jill Blachaniec – Sales Rep from Liberty Mutual who sold the homeowners policy. She said that LM would not cover the claim since it was a watermain break, which is an external source and therefore the ECWA would be liable for the damage.

* Nicole Longmuir – claims representative from liberty mutual. She said they would not cover any damage or clean up since the source of the water into the house was external.

*Andrea Poole—claims rep from ECWA – sent pictures of the damage

*Molly Jo Musarra – claims rep ECWA

*Toni Boglev from CleanMD, who managed the clean up of the basement.

The damage to the basement was extensive – we lost a great deal of our possessions, which are listed separately.

Photos of the outdoors and indoors are also enclosed.

Date:

Gatkeune F. Zoladz
Claimant's Signature

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ERIE) ss:

On this 15 day of October 2020, before me personally appeared to me known, and known to me to be the same person described in and who executed the within instrument and he/she acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same.

Monique A Glauber
Notary Public

MONIQUE A GLAUBER
Notary Public - State of New York
NO. 01GL5013666
Qualified in Erie County
My Commission Expires Jul 15, 2023

