

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Sarnafil Roof Systems Withstand Hurricane and Tornado**

**Canton, MA**, October 27, 2003 – Sarnafil Inc., a worldwide leading manufacturer of high quality thermoplastic roofing and waterproofing systems confirms that its roof systems sustained no damage from Hurricane Isabel and a subsequent F-1 tornado. Hurricane Isabel passed over a large import warehouse building in Suffolk, Virginia, on September 18, 2003 and a tornado hit an ALDI retail supermarket in Trenton, New Jersey, on September 25, 2003. Both roofs came through the storms with no signs of damage or uplift stress.

Completed in early 2003, the import warehouse roof is covered with 1.1 million square feet of Sarnafil's single ply membrane. The 10-foot wide membrane sheets were installed using Sarnafil Express, a mechanical attachment system that utilizes a polymer batten strip and double weld in the membrane overlap. Sarnafil Express offers improved wind protection and is often specified for high wind areas.

Despite continuous winds of between 50 and 75 miles per hour, with gusts of up to 90 miles per hour, the Sarnafil system on the warehouse building roof performed superbly. Other buildings in the Suffolk area had substantial damage to their roofs.

The ALDI supermarket roof, though smaller and older, withstood a fast-moving tornado. Installed in 1996, the 15,600 square-foot mechanically attached Sarnafil membrane withstood F-1 tornado force winds of up to 85 miles per hour as it passed through Florence Township early in the morning on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

"The tornado caused damage to our parking lot, took down our sign and ripped a section of roof off a building across the street," said Chris Gormley, district manager for ALDI. "But our store was fine. The roof didn't sustain any damage whatsoever."

According to the Insurance Information Institute, U.S. insurers will pay out close to \$1 billion in damages due to Hurricane Isabel. Damages from the Florence Township tornado are estimated at over \$4.7 million across nine municipalities.

**About Sarnafil**

Sarnafil is a subsidiary of Switzerland-based Sarna Group, a manufacturer of high-tech plastic polymers for a wide range of industries including roofing, waterproofing, civil engineering and automotive applications. Sarnafil has manufactured more than 3.5 billion square feet of thermoplastic roofing and waterproofing membrane since 1964 with the company's U.S. manufacturing plant established in Canton, MA in 1980. Sarnafil roofing and waterproofing systems protect some of the world's most valuable structures including numerous schools, retail buildings, libraries, museums, hospitals, commercial buildings and stadiums. Sarnafil membranes are produced at manufacturing facilities in the United States, Switzerland, and China.

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