



NBC CONNECTICUT WINS REGIONAL EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

WEST HARTFORD, CT – (April 20, 2016) – The Radio Television Digital News Association today announced it has awarded NBC Connecticut / WVIT a Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for News Series. The NBC-owned station was honored for its investigation into "[Crumbling Foundations](#)."

"Crumbling Foundations" was the result of a nearly a yearlong investigation during which NBC Connecticut's *Troubleshooters* team exposed a two-decade-long mystery that caused life changing emotional and financial distress for hundreds of homeowners in a section of the state. Concrete foundations placed between the early 1980s through the 1990s were crumbling a decade or longer after the houses and condos were built. Speaking with affected homeowners, experts, scientists, geologists, contractors, structural engineers, attorneys and public officials, NBC Connecticut identified a common reported link: one concrete supply company. Since July of 2015, NBC Connecticut has reported on more than two dozen stories detailing how experts believe the deterioration is caused by a chemical reaction due to a mineral found in the stone used in the concrete aggregate. NBC Connecticut exposed through freedom of information requests that the state of Connecticut knew of the problem dating back to 2002 but never investigated thoroughly or made the issue public. Insurance companies also knew of the problem going back to 2002 but never notified homeowners.

In the course of the investigation, the Governor ordered the state Attorney General's Office to assist the Department of Consumer Protection in a civil investigation into the matter. The Department of Consumer Protection also sent out advisories to realtors and inspectors warning them of what to look for based on the reporting. Affected homeowners were scared to come forward out of fear their insurance would get dropped. As a result of NBC Connecticut's reporting, the state Insurance Department ordered insurance companies not to drop the policies of any homeowners who file claims for coverage. While insurance companies immediately deny coverage, NBC Connecticut discovered some were agreeing to settlements with homeowners who sued.

NBC Connecticut was praised by federal, state and local officials as well as homeowners for exposing the issue and bringing affected homeowners together in calling for action by the government. Without causing a panic, NBC Connecticut informed and empowered affected communities. The state investigation is still on-going.

"Our team is committed to making a positive difference in the communities we serve and in our viewers' lives. We are honored to receive this distinguished recognition for the important work this team does each and every day," said Susan Tully, NBC Connecticut President and General Manager."

NBC Connecticut's *Troubleshooters* is the largest, dedicated, television investigative team in the Connecticut market. They investigate corruption, fraud, consumer and public safety issues. Viewers can share their stories by email at troubleshooters@nbcconnecticut.com or call the tip line at 1-800-523-9848.

The prestigious Edward R. Murrow Awards are presented annually by the Radio Television Digital News Association, the world's largest professional organization devoted exclusively to electronic journalism. Today's regional winners are automatically entered and advanced to the national Edward R. Murrow

Awards competition, which will be judged in June 2016. The national awards will be presented in October at the RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Awards Gala in New York City.

About NBC Connecticut

Owned by NBCUniversal, NBC Connecticut / WVIT serves its audience with local news and weather information across multiple platforms. This includes more than 35 hours of newscasts each week on WVIT, news segments on CT COZI TV and digital content on NBCCConnecticut.com. The station is Connecticut's leader with Facebook and Twitter followers and provides mobile users on-the-go breaking news updates and weather information through its customized applications. NBC Connecticut's commitment to excellence in journalism has been recognized with numerous Emmy Awards and the prestigious Peabody Award. NBC Connecticut supports the community through its signature Partners in a Caring Community initiative.

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