

MEDIA INFORMATION

**Merchants Insurance Group * 250 Main Street * Buffalo, New York 14202
www.merchantsgroup.com**

For Immediate Release
Contact: Wendy Steele (716) 849-3170

Merchants Insurance Group Companies “A-” Rating Affirmed by A.M. Best Company

BUFFALO, NY, August 13, 2009 - Merchants Insurance Group announced that all three of its companies, Merchants Mutual Insurance Company, Merchants Preferred Insurance Company and Merchants National Insurance Company, have once again been given an "A-" (excellent) rating from the A. M. Best Company.

The "A-" was awarded to the companies based on a number of factors, including “strengthened capitalization, improved operating results, solid regional presence and strong relationships with its agency force,” according to A. M. Best’s rating analyst for Merchants Insurance Group.

The A. M. Best Company is a full service credit-ranking organization for the insurance industry, rating organizations annually. The ratings are independent opinions, based on a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of a company's balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile.

Merchants Insurance Group offers personal and commercial insurance through a network of more than 650 independent insurance agents throughout the Northeast and North Central United States. With corporate headquarters and regional operations located

in Buffalo, N.Y., Merchants operates offices in Hauppauge, N.Y.; Mt. Laurel, N.J.;
Bedford, N.H., and Dublin, OH. Merchants' website is www.merchantsgroup.com.