

News You Can Use

2005

Summer is here and it is time to enjoy the weather and take those long awaited vacations. Listed below are some helpful hints to ensure a relaxing trip while away from your residence for an extended period of time and a brief review of rental car coverage.

Before You Leave:

- Consider telling a trusted neighbor you are leaving and when you'll be home.
- Leave a travel itinerary with a family member, friend or colleague.
- Arrange for someone to pick up your newspaper, mail or other parcels.
- Set timer lights.
- Unplug non-essential electrical appliances.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked.
- Activate fire and burglar alarm systems.

While Traveling:

- Keep valuable items in a locked hotel safe.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash.
- Avoid wearing valuable items to the beach or pool.
- Take a photo copy of your passport and license when traveling outside the U.S.

Peace of Mind and Relaxation are what vacations are all about. Careful planning can help you protect your home and personal property while you are away and perhaps prevent unpleasant surprises upon your return.

How Does Your Rental Car Coverage Work (While on Vacation)?

While all policies differ, most provide some option for rental car coverage. The coverage is typically part of the physical damage portion of your auto policy. If you damage the rental car, coverage is provided according to the terms of your physical damage coverage. At a minimum, you may have to pay your current auto deductible. Additional costs can be charged to you by the rental car company. Not only can the rental company collect for the cost to repair, it may also require you to pay for the lost rental income for the period of time the car is out of service.

Is there a policy that offers broad coverage for Rental Vehicles? Yes, Chubb's Masterpiece Auto Preference policy! In fact, if you have a Chubb auto policy, you don't need to purchase any insurance from the Rental Car Company. Chubb Auto Preference provides coverage under the liability section of the contract. That means Chubb's policy will respond to costs you could be responsible for following damage to or theft of a rental vehicle, including potential lost rental income. This unique rental car coverage can save you hundreds of dollars in collision damage waiver fees and help protect your wallet if you damage a rental vehicle. Since this coverage falls under liability, no deductible applies. If you would like to review your current coverage, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 412-261-2222 or david@simpson-mccrady.com.

Summer Storms

It's that time of year again, when sunny skies can be quickly replaced by ominous storm clouds and dangerous lightning. Last year we were reminded of how severe storms can be and the devastation they often leave behind. The 2004 Hurricane Season demonstrated the far reaching effects of powerful storm systems, impacting Western Pennsylvania along with most of the East Coast. As you can imagine, wind damage and water damage were two of the more common loss scenarios. With that in mind, it might be a good time to review your current insurance. Whether you own/rent a home or condo, it's important to make sure your coverage limits adequately reflect your personal property exposure. In addition, it's a good idea to make sure you understand how your policy might respond in the event of a loss. **For example, Flood is not covered under homeowner policies.** To obtain coverage, you must get a separate Flood Insurance policy. If you would like a quote for flood insurance or would like to review your current coverage, please contact our office at 412-261-2222 or david@simpson-mccrady.com.

Financial Services

Our Financial Services Department is well equipped to advise you in the decision making process of buying life insurance. We are also available to review your existing policies and help you determine if the coverage you currently own is appropriate and competitive. Should you have any questions, please contact Ian George at 412-261-2222.