

### FLOOD INSURANCE

*It's that time of year again, when clear skies can quickly turn dark and produce dangerous storms and heavy rain. Wind and water damage are two of the more common loss scenarios we see every year. With that in mind, it is a good time to review your current coverage. Whether you own a home or condo, it's important to make sure your coverage limits adequately reflect your 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.*

#### What is Flood?

*(FEMA – National Flood Insurance Program – [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov))*

Flood is "A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties (at least one of which is your property) from:

- Overflow of inland or tidal waters;
- Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source;
- Mudflow; or
- Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined above."



To obtain flood coverage, you must purchase a separate Flood 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.

#### Number of Uninsured Motorists on the Rise

*(Chubb – News to Use – April 23, 2009)*

A recent auto insurance industry study reports a drastic rise in the number of drivers who are dropping their auto insurance and driving on the roads uninsured.

All but two states (New Hampshire and Wisconsin) require motorists to carry liability insurance, and, in recent years, the percentage of drivers without insurance had fallen steadily, reaching a modern low of 13.8 percent two years ago. (Source – "Economy Leaves Millions of Drivers Uninsured", MSNBC.com April 9, 2009).

Last year, however, the uninsured rate spiked to 14.6 percent, and it is forecast to reach 16.1 percent by the end of this year. This percentage would work out to more than 33 million licensed drivers across the country without coverage.

The report determined that the increase was directly attributable to the recession – with each percentage point increase in the unemployment rate, there was an increase in the uninsured motorist rate of more than three-quarters of a percentage point.

Given this information, now is probably a good time to review your auto policy to make sure you have adequate uninsured/underinsured coverage. We recommend that your policy provide at least \$300,000 of uninsured/underinsured coverage and that your limits match your primary auto limits. To review your policy, please contact our office at 412-261-2222.

#### Driving Safety Improves

*(Chubb - News to Use – April 14, 2009)*

New government figures report that U.S. highway deaths in 2008 fell to their lowest number since 1961.

A variety of factors may have contributed to the lower overall fatality numbers, including \$4 per gallon gasoline prices that created an incentive for people to drive less.

However, the biggest contributor to the record low fatalities may have been increased use of seat belts, which hit a record in 2008. Many states have increased enforcement of seat belt laws, and 2008 saw a record number (83 percent) of Americans buckling up.

For additional tips to keep your family safe on the road, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (Traffic Safety) page.

As always, Simpson & McCrady LLC appreciates the opportunity to assist you with your personal insurance needs. If you have any questions about your current coverage, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 412-261-2222 or [david@simpson-mccrady.com](mailto:david@simpson-mccrady.com). Thank you!

