

# Insurance Update

S & R Insurance Services Inc 483-3200 [www.SandRInsurance.com](http://www.SandRInsurance.com) SPRING 2008

Visit our Website!

## MEET OUR STAFF:

Our staff is at your service! Call licensed agents **Linda Taras** or **Shelia Adkins** for Personal Lines, and **Cyndi Jeffers** or **Janet Walker** for Commercial Lines. **Hillary Beeler** can take quote information or answer billing questions. Our regular office hours are **9 AM-5 PM Monday thru Friday** (other hours by appointment). For after hours emergencies, call our office or call 435-5505. **We do have a lock box for your convenience.**

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

May 26 - Closed for Memorial Day

## SPRING CHECKLIST:

1. Clean out and repair gutters.
2. Trim tree limbs and bushes away from buildings.
3. Check water lines for leaks - repair as needed.
4. Have cooling system maintenance done.
5. Replace batteries on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
6. Change oil, check all fluid levels, belts, hoses and tires on vehicles. Add anti-freeze if needed.

## PAYMENTS: EFT VS AUTOMATIC BILL PAY

EFT payments can, in most cases, save you from paying installment fees, because the insurance company drafts your premium directly from your bank account on the due date. You do get a statement ahead of time to let you know the amount that will be drafted and the date the draft will occur.

If you use Automatic Bill Pay through your bank or credit union, you still have service fees, just as if you mailed your payment to the company. In some cases, your bank is simply mailing a check for you. There is usually a lag time of 2-7 days after you enter the request for the bill to be paid until it is actually paid. This method is not a good option if you are paying after a notice of cancellation for nonpayment has been issued. You could easily end up with a lapse in coverage. **Be sure you know what day the bill is going to be paid when using this method!** Most banks and credit unions will let you know when you enter the bill to be paid.

## SINKHOLE COVERAGE NOW AVAILABLE!

Most property policies can now have Sinkhole coverage added. Call us today for more information!!

## IDENTITY THEFT COVERAGE:

With an increased rise in the number of identity theft cases, most insurance companies now offer coverage for identity theft on Homeowners (including Renters) policies. Coverage is inexpensive - call us today for a quote!

## PROGRESSIVE'S TWO NEW OFFERINGS:

1. If Progressive customers agree to go paperless (you can have your policy and invoice sent to you online), Progressive will plant a tree! You'll still be calling us with any questions or problems, and for all of your policy service - you just won't get so much mail, and will be helping the environment! Call us if you would like to go paperless with Progressive!

2. Progressive auto insureds with Collision coverage on their vehicle will now receive \$500 in complimentary Pet Injury Coverage, in the event their dog or cat is injured in a car accident involving that vehicle. Call us today for info!

## VACANT HOMES OR DWELLINGS:

If your home or rental dwelling is vacant or unoccupied for more than 30 days, there is a good possibility that your coverage will be null and void. **PLEASE** always let us know if your property is going to be vacant or unoccupied. We just want to write the correct coverage for you, so you'll have coverage in the event of a claim!

**LESSONS LEARNED:** With claims on the rise again, we thought it might be a good idea to let you know about a few recent causes of claims, so you can take necessary steps to prevent the same losses:

1. Drive slower and more cautiously when the roads are wet. Oil on the road makes wet roads slick!

2. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you (at least one car length), and drive defensively - don't assume anything!

3. Don't be pre-occupied with the gadgets in your vehicle! Keep your eyes on the road at all times! **80% of auto claims are caused by distractions!**

5. If you are involved in an auto accident, call the police, exchange information with witnesses and other drivers. Do not move your vehicle until the police arrive, do not admit fault, do not provide your insurance limits, and call our office as soon as possible.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!!

## **AUTO INSURANCE - IT'S THE LAW!**

All automobiles that are registered are also required to be insured for at least Liability coverage. Failure to carry insurance can result in revocation of your driver's license. You must carry proof of insurance in the vehicle at all times. ID cards are included with each renewal policy. If you're missing an ID card, please call us for a replacement!

## **WELCOME, HARTFORD!**

S & R is proud to announce that we now represent The Hartford, for your business and personal insurance needs. Those Hartford policies that have previously been brokered by our agency will now be 100% serviced by S&R. This will allow us to better serve you!

## **STATE CONTRACTOR BONDS**

Yes, we write the State of TN Contractor Bonds that are now a requirement. Call us today if you need one of these bonds!

## **CONTRACTORS - WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**

We've prepared a Contractor's Manual for you, to explain how your insurance works and to help you prepare for audits. If you have not received a copy, please call us today!

## **DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH LIABILITY COVERAGE?**

With lawsuits more prevalent these days, and the lawsuit amounts increasing, we all need to do a check of our assets to make sure our Liability limits are high enough to protect those assets! On your Auto policy, the Bodily Injury Per Person limit should be high enough to cover your assets. On your Homeowners policy, it's the Personal Liability limit. On Commercial Liability, it's the Occurrence Limit. If you think you need more coverage, please call us - you might be surprised at how inexpensive it is to increase those limits. If you need higher limits than the policy can provide, an Umbrella policy can be purchased to add an extra layer of protection.

## **BUSINESS OWNERS CAN SCREEN POTENTIAL NEW HIRES with assistance from [www.screennow.com](http://www.screennow.com).**

Legally compliant, the website provides instant reports. Do all background checks, including motor vehicle record checks, before you hire!

## **NEED INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HEALTH, LIFE OR DISABILITY INSURANCE?**

Call us - we represent several companies! Whether you just want some extra perks for your employees (like Dental insurance), are looking for a good Group Health plan or need Key Person Life coverage, we can help you find a plan that suits your needs AND your budget!

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS!**

## **WORKERS' COMP UPDATE:**

1. The March 1, 2008 rate changes saw decreases in rates for many class codes.

2. If your business changes ownership, please contact our office - changes in ownership must be reported by completing an ERM-14 form and possibly other forms.

3. Prepare for injuries before they occur! The TN Dept of Labor website provides info on how to deal with a work-related injury, including the choice of physicians, penalties for late reporting of claims, and all necessary forms. Visit their website at: [www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/](http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/).

4. Working in other states? Employees hired in TN who live and work primarily in TN will be paid TN benefits. If you work in other states, you may be required to carry Workers' Comp coverage for those states, and you can be fined for failure to meet requirements! Contact us today if you work in other states, to be sure you're in compliance!

5. Workers' Comp does not cover Acts of God!

6. Now is a great time to implement a drug testing program in your workplace, and benefit from the 5% Drug Free Workplace credit on your Workers' Comp policy!

## **TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT:**

Since tools and equipment are transported away from the business premises, they are not covered by the Contents portion of a business policy. Coverage can be added to your policy, either on a scheduled or unscheduled basis. Call us today for a quote!

## **YOUR DUTY AS AN INSURED:**

1. The courts have consistently held that insureds have the duty to read the application for insurance and to verify its accuracy. You should read the policy when you receive it, and call us with any questions - before a claim occurs!

3. If any of the information in the application changes after coverage is bound, notify us immediately! Failure to do so could void your coverage in some cases!

4. In the event of a claim, notify us promptly and take necessary measures to protect property from further damage. Failure to do so could affect your settlement, cause coverage to be non-renewed, or even cause the injured party to file suit against you!

**HAVE YOU MOVED?** Please call us to update your information and protect your coverage!

**JUST A REMINDER!** We are independent agents because you are important to us. Having several companies allows us to adjust coverages and premiums as needed. We work hard for you behind the scenes!

## **HOW ARE WE DOING?**

If you're happy with our service, we'd appreciate your referrals of friends and family! If you have a complaint, please contact Cyndi - you're important to us!