

# Insurance Update

S & R Insurance Services Inc 482-3507

[www.SandRIInsurance.com](http://www.SandRIInsurance.com)

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*Visit our Website!*

## Meet Our Staff!

Our staff of insurance professionals is at your service! Call **Cyndi Jeffers, Linda Taras or Myla James, licensed agents**, for **ALL** your insurance needs! **Edie Tadlock** 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.**

### **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 air conditioning 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.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** With claims on the rise, 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. Contractors - do not leave your equipment in your vehicles or on a trailer unless everything is locked!
3. Check plumbing for leaks (under sinks and at the hot water heater) on a regular basis.
4. 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!**

### **WHY PAY YOUR PREMIUM BY THE DUE DATE?**

1. Late fees can cost you an additional \$5-\$20 per installment.
2. Many companies will not reinstate more than once if your policy should lapse because you missed a payment. **Sign up for EFT - save on service fees and never have a late payment!** Call us now for more info!

### **THE GRANGE BANK: 1-800-270-8062**

Mortgages, Auto Loans, CD's - lots of specials - call The Grange Bank to see what they can do for you!

### **IS MY UTILITY TRAILER INSURED?**

Utility trailers that are 20'x8' or larger are required to be registered and titled, just like a motor vehicle. If registration and title are required, so is insurance coverage! Depending on their value, you may decide to carry Liability coverage only, but you can choose to have full coverage (Comp and Collision).

**How are utility trailers insured?** Some insurance companies allow personal trailers to be added to an Automobile policy. Others require a separate policy. Commercial trailers are covered by a Commercial Auto policy.

If you own a utility trailer, please contact our office immediately! **Your trailer may NOT be automatically covered!**

### **BOATS & MOTORCYCLES!**

Yes, we write insurance for boats and motorcycles! And there are discounts available - multi-policy, safety course (may be required by law in some cases), many different safety device credits! Call us today for a quote!

### **WASHING MACHINE HOSES - WHICH KIND?**

We hear that some insurance companies recommend the mesh washing machine hoses over the rubber ones. We recommend steel hoses over the mesh and the rubber, but keep in mind, even steel hoses are not adequate protection if the connectors are of poor quality!

### **HOMEOWNERS RATES STABILIZING:**

It's been a rough several years for Homeowners insurance, as insurance companies raised their rates to remain stable after a huge rise in the number and dollar amounts of property claims. We are now seeing some rate stabilization and even decrease, as companies create new coverage tiers.

If we all remain responsible home owners and do our part to properly maintain our biggest investment, we can hope that the last several years won't ever be repeated!

**HAVE YOU MOVED?** Please call us to update your information. Changes can affect your coverage - in some cases, your coverage could be voided if an address change is not reported!

### **WHAT DISCOUNTS CAN WE GIVE YOU?**

Multi-car, multi-policy, good student, driver training, away at school over 100 miles without a vehicle, claims free, credit score, prior insurance, home owner, property insurance, smoke detector, local alarm, central station burglar alarm, central station fire alarm, mature driver, over age 65, defensive driver course, motorcycle course, boating safety course, more vehicles than drivers - the list goes on and on! Let us review your insurance coverages - we'd love to see what discounts we can find for you!

**Auto-Owners has just added a new discount** for Auto and Homeowners policies - it's called "Paid In Full". If you pay your term premium in full by the due date, you will receive this discount automatically! Mortgagee-paid premiums do not qualify for the discount.

### **IDENTITY THEFT COVERAGE:**

With an increased rise in the number of identity theft cases, insurance companies are now offering coverage to Homeowners (including Renters) policies. You'll be surprised at how inexpensive the coverage is! Call us today for more information and a quote!

**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!

### **WORKERS' COMP UPDATE:**

1. 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.

2. 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/).

3. Working in other states? Employees hired in TN who live and work primarily in TN will be paid TN benefits. You may be required to carry Workers' Comp coverage for other states you work in. An employer can be fined for failure to meet Workers' Comp requirements of other states they work in. Contact us today if you work in any other state besides TN, to be sure you're in compliance!

4. Workers' Comp does not cover Acts of God in most cases!

### **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!

### **TERRORISM COVERAGE:**

Terrorism coverage is required on Workers' Comp policies. Both Foreign and Domestic Terrorism are covered.

On Commercial Auto policies, only Domestic Terrorism is covered. On all other Commercial policies, you have the option to exclude Terrorism coverage.

### **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 the accuracy of the information contained therein.

2. You should read the policy when you receive it, and call us if you have 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!

**DO YOU HAVE AFLAC?** AFLAC has several plans, and each employee can choose which coverage they want. The premiums are pre-tax, and the employer can contribute a percentage of the premium if they wish. Best of all, if an employee leaves your business, they can take their coverage with them! Call us today to find out how you can provide some inexpensive perks to your employees with AFLAC!

**LONG TERM CARE: NOT JUST FOR THE ELDERLY!** Long Term Care insurance can cover home health care, hospice and nursing home costs no matter what the reason. An accident or debilitating illness can occur at any age. We recommend the purchase of Long Term Care coverage no matter what age you are! And the rates are lower when you're younger!

**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!

### **SPRING/SUMMER HOLIDAYS:**

**Tuesday, July 4** - Closed (4<sup>th</sup> of July)

**Monday, September 9** - Closed (Labor Day)

**HOW ARE WE DOING?** If you're happy with our service, tell your friends and family! We'd love to help them with their insurance coverages, too! If for any reason you are dissatisfied, please call Cyndi right away. We want to provide you with the best service possible!

***We appreciate your business! !!***