



# Insurance by KATIE

K - Knowledgeable A - Attentive T - Trustworthy I - Independent E - Experienced

The Writer Agency  
(308) 436-4202

Spring 2008

## Special Interest Articles

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“Mid pleasures  
and palaces  
though we may  
roam,  
Be it ever so  
humble, there's  
no place like  
home.”

**John Howard Payne**  
US actor & dramatist  
(1791 - 1852)



## Was Santa Good to You?

Jewelry. Fine art. Antique dolls. Fur coats. Rare coins. Autographs. Baseball cards. Fine Wine. All are expensive or rare holiday gifts for avid collectors that may not be covered by your home or renters insurance policy. Standard home or renter's insurance policies are not intended to protect any items that tend to appreciate in value, only everyday items

in your home—furniture, clothing and appliances. Therefore, they limit coverage for unusually valuable items. Home and renters policies also typically exclude coverage altogether in certain situations, such as earthquakes, floods, accidental breakage or during shipping either to you or from you.

If you own individual items or a collection worth more than



- \$1,000:
- \* talk with your agent about additional coverage
  - \* Keep all purchase receipts & supporting documentation in a fireproof box.
  - \* Keep a detailed inventory of items and their values, even if your insurer doesn't require it.
  - \* Update your written appraisals every year or two.

Adapted from [www.iaa.org](http://www.iaa.org)

## Teen Drivers & Your Auto

One of the most important features of any policy is whether you can expect to be compensated in case of an injury.

Medical payments (MedPay) coverage will pay for your and your passengers' medical expenses after an accident. These expenses can arise from accidents while you're driving your car, someone else's car (with their permission), and injuries you or your family members incur when you're pedestrians. And while nobody likes to think about it, this option also helps cover funeral

expenses. The coverage will pay regardless of who is at fault, but if someone else is liable, your insurer may seek to recoup the expenses from him or her.

If you already have sufficient health, life or short/long term disability insurance (and your state doesn't require medical payments coverage), consider eliminating or purchasing decreased amounts of medical coverage from your auto insurer. Keep in mind that, unlike your healthcare coverage, medical payments coverage is not generally part of an HMO or PPO and may provide



## Policy

greater flexibility in care.

Adapted from IA Magazine 7-07

**School's in! Remember to watch for children walking in or near the street!**



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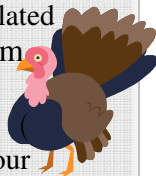
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## Holiday Fire Safety

As the holidays rush in upon us, keep the following tips in mind to ensure a safe season:

- \* Be sure to leave the lid off your jack-o'-lantern when using a candle
- \* Use a votive candle in a glass holder or tea lights in a metal case
- \* Don't leave candles burning in jack-o-lanterns unattended.
- \* Use turkey fryers outside in ventilated areas, away from buildings and combustibles
- \* Make sure your Christmas Tree is fresh and not too dry
- \* Keep water in your tree at all times



- \* Make sure artificial trees are flame retardant
- \* Never smoke around tree or flammable decorations
- \* Always unplug lights before bed or leaving the house
- \* Don't hang stockings near open flames or heat source

Adapted from Talk of the Town  
Vol 14

## Show Me - Cont

If you receive a request by your insurance company to complete this survey, please DO. Your agent also has access to these valuation programs and can perform an analysis.

One way to obtain automatic increases to your home value is through Inflation Guard

which increases your home value a specific percentage during the policy period. However, this still does not guarantee adequate coverage because actual costs of construction may increase more rapidly than the policy's coverage.

Be aware that inflationary protection generally does not increase your

home's value enough to reflect any additions or renovations you make. Changes to your home should be discussed with your agent.

Having a proper replacement cost value at the time of loss is imperative. The best protection is to review your policy with your agent every year.

## Disability VS Social Security

Are social security benefits adequate? According to the social security website, payment is only made for total disability, not for partial or short-term disability. Social Security defines disability as inability to work in the same capacity as before and inability to adjust to other work because of the condition. Lastly, disability must be expected to last for at least one year or result in death. This strict definition makes it possible that Social Security could deny payments based on the particular circumstances. Medical innovations make it more probable

that people will be able to live with a long-term disability rather than having it result in death. Approximately 1 out of every 7 people between the ages of 35 and 65 can expect to become disabled for 5 years or longer. Almost 30% of people between these ages will experience a disability that lasts at least 90 days during their working careers. Will these disabilities qualify as far as Social Security is concerned? Why take the chance when you can ensure your family's financial stability with disability insurance. Ask your agent about it today.

Adapted from IA Magazine July 2007

## Stress Busters

Besides protecting our belongings from holiday fires, it's important to protect ourselves from stress associated with the holidays:

- Look for humor in every situation. Learn to smile.
- Pace yourself by keeping a practical schedule & don't over book yourself
- Release emotions in a healthy way by taking a brisk walk
- Maintain balanced eating habits & avoid excesses
- Talk to someone. They can offer support and a fresh outlook
- Take time for yourself just to recoup

IAmagazine Feb 07



## SAY WHAT?

These at any time

**Bodily Injury** – includes injury, sickness, disease, & death resulting from any of

**Personal Injury** – Injury other than bodily Injury arising out of such actions as slander, false arrest, wrongful entry, violation or privacy, & malicious prosecution.



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## Current Events – President Kochenower

Kathryn Kochenower, was elected president of Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska (IIAN) during the association's 100th annual convention in Lincoln on October 11.

An all-time record of over 500 agents and company representatives attended the conference which included a trade fair featuring over sixty

exhibitors. High-profile speakers included Bill Berkley, CEO of Berkley Corp Governor Dave Heineman, IIABA National President Bob Rusbult and National IIABA Chairman Bob Fulwider.

Kochenower addressed over 350 in attendance at the Red Carpet 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, sharing her vision of "Educate to Perpetuate". She challenged agents to educate themselves to

better serve clients, to educate clients to become better insurance consumers, to educate legislators so changes can be made to benefit insurance consumers, to educate young people about career opportunities in the insurance industry, and to educate insurance companies about the technological advances which can be used in mutual partnership to benefit agents and consumers.



Founded in 1896, the Big "I" is the nation's oldest and largest national independent insurance agents and brokers association.

Its members are businesses that offer customers a choice of policies from a variety of insurance companies.

Independent agents and brokers offer all lines of insurance—property, casualty, life and health.

## Disability Coverage for your Business

It is estimated that between 1/3 and 1/2 of all businesses have no business interruption insurance. Almost half of businesses that experience a serious loss never reopen...over 1/4 of those that do, close within 3 years. A major reason for this is the lack of or inadequate limits of business interruption insurance. Business interruption is comparable to disability insurance in that it pays for a business's loss of profit and expenses that continue while the business is not fully operational during repair or relocation

following a loss. Business income insurance covers three types of expenses that occur while operations are interrupted or curtailed: (1) loss of profits, (2) continuing expenses, and (3) extra expenses. In addition to its loss of profits, a business must continue to pay some bills whether its doors are open or not. Some businesses will also incur extra expenses in order to remain open at a temporary location. Business interruption insurance pays for these costs. To determine proper limits, it must be determined, in the event

of a total loss, how long it would take to rebuild, relocate and restore operations to pre-loss levels. Next, it must be determined what would be the worst time of year for such a loss to occur, how much profit would be lost, and what expenses would continue or increase during that specific time period. If the business is new or rapidly growing, it is easy to underestimate the amount of insurance needed. Because of the complexity of issues, it is important to seek the counsel of an experienced independent insurance agent.

<http://vu.iiiaa.net>



The Certified Insurance Counselor designation is a nationally recognized mark of distinction that represents commitment to continuous development of service and knowledge. With over 100 classroom hours of formal insurance training along with yearly updates, CIC's are a symbol of professional excellence and proven leadership in the insurance industry. CIC's possess demonstrated competence and insurance expertise with dedication to serving individual client needs.



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## Personal Property Inventory

As you begin to make your list of "I wants" for the Jolly Old Elf, don't forget to make a list of the "I already have's". Think about any room in your house & from memory try to list

everything in the room. Now, check your list against the actual contents of the room. You'll be surprised how many items you **don't** remember! For that reason ask your

agent for a Personal Property Inventory & take the time to complete it. Making a video tape of each room is also helpful. It may be worth thousands of dollars if you ever suffer a loss.

## About Our Organization

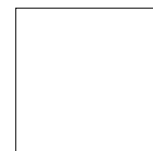
Our multiple location agencies represent numerous competitive insurance companies all dedicated to providing superior

coverage and quality customer service. With the support of the staff in Ogallala's office, Katie Kochenower, a Certified Insurance Counselor,

uses her 20+ years experience to provide you with quality, affordable insurance tailored to fit your specific needs.

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**Do you know someone who could benefit from personal insurance service? Your referrals are appreciated!**

