



Insurance by KATIE

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

The Writer Agency
(308) 436-4202

Summer 2008

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" Shall I
compare thee
to a summer's
day?
Thou art more
lovely and
more
temperate."

William Shakespere
(1564-1616)
British poet



Put the Weeee Back in Wii



It was widely publicized during the 2006 Christmas season that there were incidents of controllers of the new "Nintendo Wii" gaming console controllers being accidentally thrown through TV screens or otherwise breaking fragile objects when accidentally released from the player's hand. Although the game is now manufactured with

"safety straps" to help avoid launching a game controller through the air, if this **does** happen, is it covered by a homeowners policy?

There is no listed peril (no sentence in the policy that says damage from flying Wii controllers) that would cover this loss.

Damage to personal property under the most common HO form (HO-3) is on a named perils basis. This means that the policy lists exactly what types of damaging factors there is coverage for.

The good news for all gaming gurus is that coverage could be obtained by using the HO-5 policy or attaching the HO0015 "all risk" endorsement to the standard HO-3 homeowner's form. Costs vary so ask your agent for pricing.



Educated Driving at College

Your high school graduate is preparing for college & will **not** have a car on campus, but his/her roommate will and has agreed to allow your student to drives it occasionally. Would your personal auto policy respond if there is an accident? Courts have generally held that students away at school are still considered to be "family members" under the Personal Auto Policy and, thus, are

covered while operating autos at school. However, there is an important exclusion that states that IF the vehicle is "furnished or available" for the "regular use" of a "family member," there is no coverage under the parents' policy while the student drives the car. Without debating the issues of "furnished or available" or "regular use," let's assume that the student **does** have regular, unrestricted

access to his/her roommate's car. In that case, he/she is at the mercy of the insurance on the vehicle, if any, since her parents' policy will not provide any coverage. If all this seems complicated, it **is**, but there are ways to provide additional protection so if you find yourself in this situation, contact your agent right away. Don't leave your protection up to a college roommate.

School's Out - Watch for children playing in or near the street !



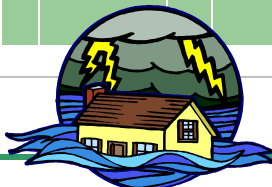
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Flood Insurance



NOW is the time!

Although we've run information about flood insurance in previously newsletters, with ongoing storms in the Midwest and impending flooding in the headlines, it is more important than ever to revisit frequently asked flood insurance questions with answers provided by the National Flood Insurance Program:

Doesn't my homeowners insurance policy cover flooding?

No. Let's say that again, **NO**, flood damage is not typically covered by a homeowners insurance policy. You **MUST** purchase a separate policy in order to obtain flood insurance.

If my home is flooded, won't federal disaster assistance pay for my damages?

No. Federal disaster assistance often comes in the form of a low interest loan to help cover flood damage, not compensation for your losses. Even then, loans are only available if the president formally declares a disaster.

Why do I need flood insurance? My community has never been flooded.

Flooding occurs in low-to-moderate risk areas as well as in high-risk areas. Poor drainage systems, rapid accumulation of rainfall, snowmelt, and broken water mains can all result in flood. Properties on a hillside can be damaged by mudflow, a covered peril under the Standard Flood Insurance Policy

Why do I need flood insurance if I live on a hill and will never get flooded?

Floods can occur in any area, although to varying degrees. If you live on a hill or in an area that has never been flooded, your risk may be significantly reduced, but it is **not** eliminated. Flooding can be caused by heavy rains, melting snow, inadequate drainage systems, failed protective devices such as levees and dams, as well as by tropical storms and hurricanes.

Does flood insurance cover flood damage caused by hurricanes, rivers, or tidal waters?

Yes, a general condition of flood exists if two adjacent properties are affected, one of which is yours. Or, if the flood is confined to your property, the flood water must cover at least two acres.

Is flood damage from wind-driven rain covered?

No. When rain enters through a wind-damaged window or door, or comes through a hole in a wall or roof, the resulting puddles and damage are considered to be windstorm-related, not flood-related. Flood insurance covers overflow of inland or tidal waters and unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source. However, the flood must be 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 yours). Although flood insurance specifically excludes wind and hail damage, the good news is that most homeowners insurance provides such coverage.

What is covered in my basement?

Flood insurance covers your home's foundation elements and equipment that's necessary to support the structure (for example: furnace, water heaters, circuit breakers, etc.). Flood insurance does not cover basement improvements, such as finished walls, floors, ceilings or personal belongings that may be kept in a basement.

Please make an informed decision about the flood risks you face before deciding **not** to purchase flood insurance. You may qualify for a [Preferred Risk Policy](#) (a lower-cost flood insurance policy). Flood Insurance cannot be obtained when the flood waters are closing in on your property. **DON'T WAIT**...Get more valuable information from <http://www.floodsmart.gov> or contact your agent.

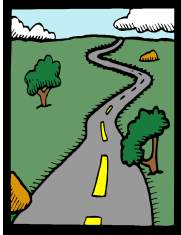


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Current & Upcoming Events

As the President of the Independent Insurance Agent Association of Nebraska, (Big "I") Katie Kochenower is an advocate for insurance consumers. To this end, she has been travelling the state visiting with other independent agents discussing important issues facing the industry; issues that ultimately

affect insurance consumers. She will use the knowledge garnered to plan the future direction of the Big "I" during their summer board meeting planning session which will be held right here in Gering during Oregon Trail Days. (After all that cross country driving to meetings in Lincoln, it's about time everyone came out West!)



Kochenower just recently completed the fourth national educational course (out of 5). Emphasis was on protecting assets through identification, & analysis of exposures to loss and methods to reduce the financial impact of these losses. She will use the knowledge gained to benefit the clients she serves.



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.



Employee Dishonesty

In the last few years, internal employee theft has surpassed external shoplifting. Fidelity issues are not just limited to large corporations, as evidenced by even some of our local headlines.

Embezzlements involve company

officers, managers, bookkeepers, sales people, shipping & receiving clerks, cashiers, stockers, warehouse workers, truck drivers, and all other personnel. No business is immune.

Unfortunately, many businesses are not protected through insurance coverage. A single employee's embezzlement scheme over a

period of time can bankrupt a small company. Collusion by several employees taking funds, inventory, or other business property can be ruinous to the financial stability of an organization.

Talk to your agent about proper fidelity coverage before your business becomes a victim from within.

Adapted: Rough Notes 12-2006



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.



SAY WHAT? **Passive Retention** – Unplanned acceptance of losses because of failure to identify risk, failure to act, or forgetting to act.
Odds – The probable frequency that a given occurrence will happen.



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FLOOD Insurance – DON'T WAIT



Have you read the headlines or heard the news lately? Communities just like our all across the Midwest are flooding or bracing for the

potential of flood waters. While we in the Panhandle are very thankful for the moisture, storms this summer season have already caused

damage and flood is a very real threat. Flood is NOT covered on your homeowner policy. Find out how to get covered. **inside.**

About Our Organization

Our agency represents many very competitive insurance companies dedicated to providing superior coverage and customer service.

With the support of the staff in Ogallala, Katie Kochenower, a Certified Insurance Counselor, uses her

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

The Writer Agency

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

