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“No spring nor  
summer  
beauty hath  
such grace  
As I have seen  
in one  
autumnal  
face.”

John Donne  
English  
Metaphysical Poet  
1572-1631

## Got Life Insurance?

Call us today to  
see how very  
affordable peace  
of mind really is!

## It's MY money & want it NOW!



If you are like me, you mute the TV every time that commercial for JG Wentworth comes on, but in reality it makes a good point: you pay for insurance coverage so that the insurance company will pay you in the event you have damages. Now that many of you are making repairs to your damaged items after the storms of this summer it is important to keep the following things in mind:

1. If you have an HO-3 Homeowners or Special Commercial policy form, without any exclusionary wording to the contrary, (which are two of the most common policy forms) the insurance company will reimburse you for the cost to repair or the value to replace your damages. The ***estimated*** reimbursement amount is generally presented to you on your claim worksheet as three columns of figures. The “Replacement Cost” column is the ***estimated*** total amount needed in order to completely repair or replace your damages. The “Actual Cash Value” column is the amount the insurance company owes you regardless of whether you make repairs or not. The “Depreciation” column is the difference between these two figures. Once the repairs are made you're able to submit your ***actual expenses*** in order to recoup the *appropriate* amount of funds listed in the “Replacement Cost” column. (See the next item for the determination of the “appropriate” amount).
2. The worksheets that you received from your adjuster is simply an estimate of what they felt it would cost to repair the damages. This figure is not a guaranteed number and you could be reimbursed more or less than that number depending on your ***actual repair expenditures***. For example, if you are able to make your repairs for less than what is listed on your estimated worksheet, that is what the company will pay: you will be reimbursed for your actual out-of-pocket expenses. On the other hand, if your actual expenses exceed that figure listed on your worksheet, it is possible to obtain reimbursement in an amount higher than is listed on your worksheet. It is important to note however, that if your damages do exceed the figure listed on your worksheet you should present this difference to the insurance company for approval prior to making any repairs. **Continued on page 2.**

**Daylight Saving Time ends November 7**

Check out our blog on that day for interesting facts about this strange tradition

[www.insurance-by-katie.blogspot.com](http://www.insurance-by-katie.blogspot.com)



## Where there's smoke

Have you checked your smoke alarm recently?

According to the National Fire Protection Agency:

- Roughly 70% of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- A 2004 U.S. telephone survey found that 96% of the households surveyed had at least one smoke alarm.
- About half of home fire deaths result from fires in the small percentage of homes with no smoke alarms.
- In one-quarter of the reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work, most often because of missing, disconnected, or dead batteries.
- Smoke alarms that are 10 years old have a 30% chance of failing to work properly and should be replaced.

**Check your alarm today!**

## MY money....continued



3. Make certain to retain all of your repair bills so these can be turned into your insurance company for reimbursement upon completion of the repairs so you may pay your contractor promptly.
4. The insurance contract stipulates that you be reimbursed to such extent as to put you back into the same financial position as you were prior to the loss without betterment. What this means is that the insurance company owes you to replace and repair your items with "like kind and quality". Of course you are free to choose to upgrade and improve your home or other damaged item during this process; however the insurance company is only obligated to reimburse you for what it would have cost to replace your damaged item with an identical type of item.
5. As a general rule, most insurance companies require that your repairs are made within 180 days (6 months) of the day when the damage occurred. In Nebraska however, it is not always possible to make these repairs before winter sets in. To that end, most insurance companies are willing to grant an extension of time in which to make these repairs upon receiving a formal request to do so. **If you have outstanding damage that will exceed this 180 day period, please contact me right away in order to request the extension.**
6. Most insurance policies contain a "per occurrence" deductible which means that a deductible will apply to each incident; each storm; each damage event, even if repairs for the first damages have not been made at the time of the additional damages.

No one enjoys the process of making repairs after your items are damaged. Most of us would prefer if the damage had never happened, however, unfortunately damages cannot always be avoided. The claim process can be confusing and frustrating at times and this is why you have a trusted insurance agent who can help guide you through the process in order to make it a little bit easier! It **IS** your money, let me help you get it now.



**SAY WHAT? Recoverable Depreciation** – This term is used with respect to policies insuring for replacement cost. In the event of a claim, the insured initially receives a check for the cost of replacement of a damaged item, minus a calculated percentage of depreciation of the item, minus the insured's deductible. The recoverable depreciation clause allows the insured to recover the lost depreciation value of the item, up to the actual amount spent, after replacement has been made,



## Halloween Driving Safety Tips

The potential for automobile related accidents with young pedestrians increases four times on Halloween night according to a CDC (Center for Disease Control) study.

Use these tips to stay safe:

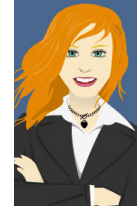
- Don't use a cell phone or other electronic device while driving on Halloween night. You shouldn't be doing this anyway, the rate of cell phone related auto accidents has jumped dramatically since the use of cell phones and texting has risen so high.
- Pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of the road. Kids tend to walk along the curbs, cutting across the street to get to other homes. Keep scanning all around you as you drive, whether as thru traffic or along with your kids as they trick-or-treat.
- Drive below the posted speed limit in residential areas during trick-or-treating hours. This will allow you time to break if you see a child dart in front of you.
- Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the roadway, they could be dropping off children.
- Instruct your child to never get into the car of a stranger. It might be easy for your child to mistake someone else's car your car with the excitement of Halloween. Put a lighted plastic Jack-O-Lantern on your dashboard to make your car more recognizable to your child.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars. Let them know if they carry a flash light to never shine it in the eyes of a driver. This can cause blindness on the driver's part temporarily and they may not see your child.
- If you are dropping off or picking up your kids in an area, pull off the road into a safe spot and turn on your hazard lights to alert other motorists. If you go with your kids from door to door, leave the hazard lights on so other drivers can see your car parked there.

Find more Halloween safety tips at: [www.halloween-safety.com](http://www.halloween-safety.com)

## New Website and **facebook** Page

As an added benefit to you, we have launched a new website. Find out more about us, explore insurance coverages we provide, access our Learning Center, read past newsletters or our blog, and even obtain an insurance quotation. If you prefer, connect with me on my Facebook page where you can easily follow my new blog, communicate or get a quote on your insurance. Click on the "Facebook & Blog" link in the navigation bar of our website.

[www.insurance-by-katie.com](http://www.insurance-by-katie.com)



## BlogNews

Family and friends are gathered in the kitchen. Food and conversation abounds. The sounds of laughing children playing in the other room echoes the sentiment felt by all. Kickoff is only minutes away and the anticipation runs high. Will this year be THE year? Who will be the starting quarterback? How will our line stack up against the opposing team?



With all the distractions, a pan has been left unattended on the stove and suddenly bursts into flame.....what do you do?

Check out my blog: [www.insurance-bykatie.blogspot.com](http://www.insurance-bykatie.blogspot.com) to read more about this and to watch an informative video!

While you are there, check out these and other fun articles:

**Do You Smell Funnel Cake?** and **Cyber Pizza Extravaganza!**

# Insurance by KATIE

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

The Writer Agency  
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Fall 2010



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## What if....

As your trusted insurance resource & "go-to" gal, I pride myself in helping you navigate the confusing world of insurance. To that end, I want to hear from you. What's confusing to you? Do you lay awake at night wondering, "what if..." and hoping you are properly protected? Rest assured you are not the only one thinking these things. So ~ call me, email me, post a comment on my blog...no matter how you do it, **just do it**. Ask me your "what if" and I'll share the answer in my next blog and newsletter.

## About Our Organization

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

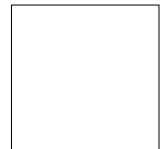
With the support of the staff in Ogallala, Katie Kochenower, a Certified Insurance Counselor and Risk Manager, uses her

20+ years experience to provide you with valuable, high 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!

