

# “Ahead of the Curve”

A Community Newsletter from A.P Michaud Insurance Agency

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## *Going on Vacation this Summer?*

Every year my family, my extended family and I rent a house at the beach for two weeks. We take day trips and rent boats to go fishing and water skiing, we go surfing, and boogie boarding but mostly we set up camp on the beach and relax by the ocean. I'm sure that most of you do the same thing or have at least once or twice. Whether it be during the summer or winter, the ski trip to Vermont, a week on the cape or even two weeks Abroad. But when you are on those vacations, do you ever think of insurance? Since getting into the insurance industry I always think of how my insurance will cover me in certain situations and I thought I would share some information about the coverage you have on your Homeowners (HO), Condominium and Renters policy that will cover you on your vacations.

**You could have coverage on your homeowners, condo or renters insurance policy!**

Lets start with your Personal Property that you take with you. Personal Property owned by an insured is covered anywhere in the world at 10% of the Coverage C amount listed on your HO, Condo or Renters policy or \$1,000, whichever of the two is greater. There are certain limits for specified property that are also listed out in your policy but just quickly, those special limits apply to: Money and banknotes, etc. \$200 limit; Securities, accounts, passports, tickets, etc. \$1500; Watercraft and equipment including trailers \$1500; Theft of jewelry, watches, furs \$1500; Theft of silverware, gold ware, platinum ware \$2500; Electronic apparatus and accessories while in or on a motor vehicle in which case the vehicle is needed to power the apparatus \$1500. This coverage is especially important because it can cover your baggage at the baggage claim. If the fault is of the airline, your HO, Condo or Renters policy will apply in excess. Some exclusions apply.

What about liability coverage? You all know how much we encourage you to have high liability and even to purchase Umbrella policies and this is a big reason why... Lets say that while on my vacation at the beach, I borrowed the boat of a good friend of mine that rents the same time every year right down the street. I have two of my close friends visiting from out of state and I want to make sure they have a great time at the beach. While I am driving the boat, I go over a huge wave and fail to reduce the speed. My two friends aren't holding on and fly in the air so high, when they land the man breaks his leg and the woman suffers major back pain that takes her out of her job as a coach for 6 months. Thank goodness, my liability coverage will apply even though I am away from home. Some exclusions do apply so before you go away, sit down with us so we can go over any areas that you might not be covered so we can plan accordingly.

And the last big coverage that will follow you on vacation is other people's property. Whether you are renting the house on the beach, borrowing a friends house, or camping out most of the big things that can happen to real property are not within your control. Lighting, windstorms and other natural events would occur no matter who is occupying the building and in most cases the homeowners or commercial property policy of the building owner would cover that. Your homeowners policy has an exclusion for "property damage" done by an insured to a property rented to, occupied or used by, or in the care of an insured. However, there is up to \$500 replacement cost coverage for damage done to property of others (some exclusions apply).

Happy traveling this summer and be safe. Be sure to contact us before you go with any coverage questions!

### Do you Twitter?

Follow Tricia at username TrishMichaudINS for industry updates, interesting stories and articles, and other related thoughts!

### What's Inside...

- Did You Know?
- 5 Things All Small Businesses Should Do to Prepare for Hurricane Season

# Did You Know?

## Interesting Insurance Facts



The more you know about your policy the better equipped you are to purchase coverage to make sure that you have the correct coverage for your situation. As your agent we try to give as much information as possible but we have to admit that we don't know everything about your life. We know that things constantly change and understand that we are not first on your list for life's announcements. With that in mind, we have taken bits of information from the policy that are important for you to know.

### *Did You Know this about your Auto Insurance?*

- \* That you do not have 60 Days to list your new driver. The only coverage that applies to is the collision part of your auto policy. So if your new driver causes Bodily Injury and wasn't listed, there will be coverage issues.
- \* Comprehensive is more than just Fire, Theft and Vandalism. Hit a big pothole that broke your rim? Hit a deer? Spill grape juice all over your back seat? Flood, fallen trees or a bad smell that wont come out - all of these can be covered but subject to your deductible.
- \* Personal Injury Protection is one of the most important coverage's on the policy. It is a no fault coverage with three major benefits: Medical Expenses, Lost Wages, and Replacement Services.
- \* At the time of a hit and run, if you do not know who hit your vehicle and you report the claim to the insurance company, you will have to pay your deductible.
- \* Your auto policy does not cover you when you intend to cause damage to another vehicle.

### *Did You Know this about your Homeowners Insurance?*

- \* That you can schedule Golf Equipment on your Homeowners policy. Yes it is true! Protect that Big Bertha that you love so much. Same goes for all your valuables, if you love it that much it is best to schedule it!
- \* If you have made any additions to your home without notifying us, it may not be covered. Additions increase the Dwelling amount of your homeowners policy and if the Dwelling amount isn't enough, those brand new additions might not be covered.
- \* Damage to your property done by animals is not a covered loss. We are very sorry if a squirrel ate your roof, but it isn't covered.
- \* If your jewelry is stolen, you only have \$1500 in coverage. Schedule it or add on an enhancement package to increase that amount.
- \* Sump pumps are not covered, let us know if you have one so we can add the coverage on.
- \* Same as the auto policy, your homeowners policy does not cover intentional damage done by you.
- \* Live in girlfriends or boyfriends are not an "insured" covered by your policy if you are the sole owner of your house. The policy must be endorsed to add him/her or else he/she should open a renters insurance policy. The same goes for live in children over the age of 21 if they are no longer students.

# Five Things All Small Businesses Should Do to Prepare for Hurricane Season



With this year's hurricane season upon us, Travelers reminds small business owners of the importance of being prepared for hurricanes. June marks the beginning of hurricane season and Travelers has developed a list of the top five things that small business owners can do to make sure their businesses are properly protected should a storm hit.

## 1. Create a Business Continuity Plan and Establish an "Emergency File"

Business owners should review their Business Continuity Plans and communicate emergency evacuation and business interruption instructions to their employees at the start of the hurricane season. If the Business Continuity Plan is not currently in place, now is the time to speak with an independent insurance agent to help develop one. Owners should also create and properly store an "emergency file" which would contain all vital business-related documents such as insurance forms, customer records and supplier lists that might be needed at a moment's notice to keep a business running.

## 2. Back Up Your Business

According to a survey by the National Federation of Independent Businesses, 21 percent of small businesses struck by disaster were forced to temporarily close operations because of power loss. In order to ensure that the bottom line isn't affected by loss of electricity, business owners should keep a backup generator and plenty of batteries on hand so that business operations can continue.

## 3. Protect Your Windows and Doors

One of the easiest ways business owners can protect their operations from damage is by securing all windows and doors, even those not facing the ocean or gulf. Check for leaks and termite damage before a storm is in the forecast and have repairs made as necessary. All outside doors should be fitted with a dead bolt lock and three hinges. If a business is located directly on the beach or gulf, storm shutters are also strongly recommended.

## 4. Trim Your Business Risk

More than 60 percent of the United States is vulnerable to damage from high-wind events such as hurricanes, according to the Institute for Business & Home Safety. Yet, it isn't always the wind that damages roofs and breaks windows; it can also be caused by landscaping and shrubbery. Trees and shrubs should be trimmed so that branches are at least seven feet away from any exterior building surface. Owners should also remove any bricks or loose debris from their building before storm hits to avoid having them become dangerous projectiles in the wind.

## 5. Review your Policies

It's no secret that business owners are strapped for time. Business Owner's Policies (BOP) often are not reviewed more than once a year. Travelers recommends reviewing BOPs at the start of every hurricane season to ensure a business is properly covered for potential hurricane losses like wind, flood, and interruption issues. Owners should consult their insurance agents about any necessary add-on policies, as flood is not part of a standard BOP. Businesses without proper insurance coverage and those that don't plan ahead to mitigate risk are at a great risk of not recovering following a hurricane or other natural disaster.

(The Travelers Companies News Release June 3, 2010 [www.travelers.com](http://www.travelers.com))

Our family is growing! Congratulations to Linda, who became a grandmother, for the second time, to twins this past year. To Trudy, who became a grandmother for the first time this past March. And to Yanira, who became a grandmother this past April. We love to hear about your big news, let us know what is happening with you!

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· MA & NH Auto



· Home · Business

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## Summer Hours!

We will be closing at 3pm on Fridays  
until September 1st

Michaud Insurance Agency has one mission in mind and has been practicing it since 1979 when we were founded.

It's simple: to design an insurance program that uniquely meets the needs for each of our customers. We aim to provide a comfortable and friendly atmosphere for each customer to build lasting individual relationships.

Our licensed, professional staff provides superior services by working directly with you to secure the coverage required to meet your current needs. We work hard at anticipating our customer's needs, and continue to offer competitive solutions to meet your ever changing requirements. At Michaud Insurance, we continually search for the best combination of insurance coverage and price, offering real value to our customers.

## *Thank you!*

*The greatest compliment we could receive is when you refer us to your friends and family. We appreciate the trust you have demonstrated in our agency and hope that you can pass that on to others. We will do our best to provide those clients with the same level of friendly, professional service that we provide to you. Your referrals help us grow so we can continue to bring in new products, services and expertise to ensure you are getting the best there is to offer!*

*Trudy, Tricia, Linda, & Yanira*