

Students Going Away To School

A major rite of passage in a young person's life is when they leave home, often for the first time, to pursue post secondary education. With all of the emotion and responsibilities to deal with, one aspect that could easily be overlooked is the need for the student to be properly insured at their residence.

It would be easy to assume that coverage is just an automatic extension from the parent's policy. However, as in most cases, the requirements and limits can differ greatly between insurance companies. Proper advice in this instance is essential

and your broker should be able to address your individual needs.

The first consideration is the amount of contents coverage that the student will have. Some companies put a limit on this, for example \$5000, and some simply use the contents limit under the parent's policy. Depending on the amount of personal property the student brings, there could be a large underinsurance exposure. Another issue is the liability.

Does the parent's liability limit automatically extend to the student's new residence? Do they have to live in the actually post secondary school dorm facilities/accommodations or is any apartment or home covered? Does the insurer require the name of school or address of the student's location? All of these are key questions that must be answered and properly addressed. A final consideration would be how a claim situation would affect the policy. Would the normal policy deductible still apply? Also, if the parent's policy has already had claims against it, would a claim at the student's location jeopardize the carrier's

willingness to continue coverage? If so, perhaps a tenant's policy for the student may be advisable.

The key message here is to always check with your insurance broker prior to the student taking possession of their new premises and not wait to deal with it when an unforeseen event occurs. Your broker will work with you to ensure that your young one is properly covered.

Snow Birds and Winter Vacations... Important Property Considerations Before You Travel!!

The winter months are on the horizon and the snow birds are preparing to head south. For us lowly humans who still have to work, but may be able to slip away for a week or two during the winter months, here are some important insurance items to remember.



When leaving your home, condominium, or apartment for more than 3 consecutive days during the normal heating season (this period of time may vary depending on the insurance company), **your insurance will not pay for water damage caused by the freezing UNLESS you do one the following:**

- a) Arrange for a competent person to enter your home daily to make sure the heat is maintained in order to avoid the possibility of pipes freezing. Better yet, you should consider having them enter every room to ensure no damage has occurred.
- OR
- b) Turn off the water supply coming into the home and bleed all the pipes, drains and appliances before you leave.
- OR
- c) Have your plumbing and heating systems connected to a monitored alarm station providing 24 hour service.

In addition, as a property owner, you have a duty of care to make sure your property is safe for access for two different types of visitors:

- a) **Licensees** - a group of visitors who enter other people's property for their own personal benefit or to perform their professional duties (firefighters, postal workers and utility companies); and
- b) **Invitees** - a group of people who enter another person's premises at the invitation of the owner. Therefore, snow removal and salting would be important to arrange while you are away in order to avoid a bodily injury or slip and fall claim. It is highly recommended that you review your home insurance policy to better understand your coverage, limitations and conditions. Your insurance broker can help you better understand your policy.

These are just a few suggestions regarding your property to keep in mind prior to your departure. Other than that, have a great time, enjoy the sun, wear sun block and don't forget your travel insurance!

How Safe are You?

GPS technology could help criminals rob your home.



A thief can steal your car in as little as two minutes. A smash and grab robbery can happen in seconds. If your car has a GPS device with your home address programmed into it, a thief can rob your home too!

One recent story involved a car break-in at a local sporting event. The thieves targeted cars in the fan parking lot knowing the owners would be watching the

big game. A window was smashed and some money, a portable GPS unit and a remote garage door opener were stolen.

The thieves used the GPS system to guide them to the house. Then they used the remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. Since the thieves knew what time the game was scheduled to finish, they had time to clean out the house.

Thieves are only interested in what's quick and easy. If you make it hard for them to break in, they'll just move on to the next target.

Tips for Your Car

If you have a portable GPS system or remote garage door opener, hide them well or take them with you when you leave the car.

If your GPS has a key or password lock, use it. If it doesn't, don't put your home address in it. Instead, program a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but a thief can't find out where you live.

Tips for Your Home

Lock your doors. Even the best locks can't protect you if you don't use them.

Be seen and safe. Trim hedges and bushes so your home is visible from the street.

Know your neighbours. Neighbours who look out for each other are among the best, and least expensive, defenses against crime.

Keep it well lit. Make sure all outside entrances – front, back and side – have good lighting so burglars can't easily hide.

Install a monitored alarm system. An alarm provides great protection against burglary and fire, but only if you use it.

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Employee Profile



Joan Skinner
Commercial Property and Casualty

Joan joined Tripemco a year ago. She will be concentrating on Commercial Property and Casualty. With over Twenty (20) years experience within the insurance industry primarily acting as a National Broker based out of Toronto. Joan has been a great addition to the team.

Joan will be working with mid to large size commercial clients. Tripemco is the preferred Broker for the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) with Joan being the Team Lead for the insurance program for the association. She specializes in delivering customized commercial coverages. Her mandate is to ensure that each policy meets the insurance needs of each individual CME member and tailored to their business operations.

In addition Joan has also created several Specialty Association Programs by working exclusively with the Insurance companies to develop a Policy geared primarily for each of the members business. She has developed a Vineyard/Winery Program another being a Hotel/Motel Package. She is presently working on creating a program for Recruitment/Staffing Industry.