



"The 18 Mile Gazette"

"From Glyndon to Jacksonville and all points in between"

Volume 1, Issue 4 April 2010

Do You Need Flood Insurance?

Do you need flood insurance? Well, walk to the nearest mirror and ask the person you see if he or she owns much property that could be damaged or destroyed by water. If the answer is yes, then you should seriously consider buying flood insurance. Most persons who need the protection buy coverage offered by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). If your community doesn't participate in the program, you'll have to look into coverage from private insurance companies.

What's The Likelihood Of Suffering A Flood Loss?

The chances of your business, home or personal property being damaged by a flood depends primarily upon where you live. They also depend on other factors such as:

- how much of a flood warning you receive
- the level of flood precautions you take (such as moving personal property from lower levels to higher levels), and
- the precautions taken by your community (such as the use of flood controls in construction standards or sandbagging threatened areas).

Since floods are related to weather conditions and tend to affect very wide areas, your chances of a flood loss may be higher than a loss from fires or windstorms. Many people have the obsolete belief that flood insurance is only needed if you live in a flood prone area.

soil. So, if you've insured yourself against fire, wind and other causes of loss, it certainly makes sense to also protect yourself from the potential of a flood loss.

Why Worry When Disaster Coverage Is Available?

You may believe that, even if you suffer from a flood, your loss may be taken care of when the government declares your location to be a disaster area. However, you're still taking a couple of large risks. First, your flooded locale may not be deemed a disaster area. Second, being designated as a disaster area is not a bargain. Disaster area status only gives citizens access to government disaster loans. IF you qualify for assistance, you have replaced insurance protection with an obligation to pay off a large, long-term loan. Is it worthwhile to gamble on an opportunity to pick up more debt? You'll find flood insurance to be a cheaper and much more valuable alternative.

Don't Be "All Wet"

You don't have to leave yourself unprotected. Your agent, an insurance professional, can help you with detailed information on the National Flood Insurance Program. You can also ask for help in getting the coverage you need to "keep dry" and secure in the face of a flood.

Health Reform Facts?

219

The number of Democrats who voted for the bill. 34 voted against it.

\$940 billion

The amount the [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates the legislations will cost, over a 10-year-period.

\$2.3 trillion

The total amount [spent on health care in the U.S. during 2008](#). Some experts predict that the 2009 figure will be 7 percent higher.

I Live In A Flood Zone?!

If you have ever heard the term "flood zone," you may think that it refers to locations that are particularly vulnerable to flooding. Wherever you live in the USA, you live in a flood zone. While your area may have a lower chance of flooding than a coastal area or a location situated near a body of water, your area could still experience flooding. A very dry part of the country can be susceptible to flash floods; hilly locations may be harmed by drainage; snowy locations may suffer from heavy snow thaw; other areas may suffer deluges or flooding due to a heavy rain season which has soaked the surrounding

Reisterstown Office

104 Business Center Drive
Reisterstown, MD 21136
Phone: (410) 833-7666

Jacksonville Office

14307 Jarrettsville Pike
Phoenix, MD 21131
Phone: (410) 666-7666

Fax:

(401)-833-3564

Toll Free Number:

(800)-564-0169

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What products does our Agency offer?

Auto Insurance

Home Insurance

Health Insurance

Life Insurance

Disability Insurance

Bonding

Commercial Insurance

Trivia Time

April 2010 Question

Name the movie that was filmed in Westminster, Maryland in 1997.

Please email your response to:

mary@abcoics.com

The first 5 correct answers received will get a Dunkin Donuts gift card.

March 2010 Winners

Ellen Welzenbach
Debbie Bannister

Umbrella/Excess Coverage - Let us give you a quote!

Let's say you have a policy for your home and the cars driven by your family. You have just the right policy for the apartment you rent out to others as well as special coverage for your boating excursions. Your homeowner's policy even has a special, added coverage to handle the business that your spouse runs out of your home.

Yes, it looks like you can be confident that you have all the coverage you need. But let's take another look. Maybe you need an umbrella. An umbrella is the term for a liability policy that fits over your primary policies. Besides providing an additional (excess) level of coverage, it sometimes provides protection that is not available under your primary coverage.

Umbrellas are designed to be carried over a person's primary (also known as

underlying) liability coverage. Primary refers to the fact that in the event of a loss, the liability portion of your auto or homeowner coverage is the first to respond. Umbrellas or excess liability policies respond to an eligible loss only after the primary insurance has paid its limit.

It's quite possible that your primary insurance limits provide more coverage than you'll ever need. However, circumstances could involve a type of loss that is not completely covered by a primary policy. For instance, your newly licensed child is driving the family car and slides on an icy highway. He ends up causing a chain collision damaging several cars and injuring a dozen drivers and their passengers. Or maybe you often volunteer to help transport members of your son's first grade class on

field trips and you have an accident because you tried to beat a yellow light. If you don't have enough primary coverage, any shortage may have to come out of your personal assets.

Umbrellas generally provide additional liability coverage for the following underlying policies:

- Personal Automobile
- Homeowners/
- Farm owners
- Recreational Vehicles
- Watercraft
- Personal Liability

The additional coverage may often extend to providing for related expenses, also on an excess basis, such as the cost of providing a court defense. Please see Umbrella Coverages – Part 2 in next months' issue of the Gazette.