



News for Our Clients

A monthly news bulletin provided by PIA and your insurance agent

Are You Ready for a Catastrophe?

Hurricane Isabel is teaching us, once again, that bad things happen! Because of that and because more weather-related problems seem to occur in the fall of the year, perhaps it's time to discuss some of them.

On this side of the sheet, we have listed some things to consider at home, and on the other side are things for businesses.

Storm Loss Considerations ...

Where Do You Go From Here?

Renters and homeowners policies protect against windstorm losses and damage caused by associated hail and tornados.

Renters who purchase the insurance have coverage for their contents, such as furniture and clothing, while the typical homeowner insurance policy will also include the dwelling structure and other structures on the insured premises.

Coverage amounts that are selected by the policyholder are listed on the insurance policy declaration pages and set a limit for those specified items. There is a deductible included, which is the amount of loss the insured must first pay for coverage to be triggered.

Not all policies are exactly the same and may vary from company to company or between types of policies. One of the most important things a policyholder can do in the event of a major loss is to be ready ahead of time.

Experts advise that every homeowner and renter should maintain a household inventory to make settling a loss easier on the policyholder. Having to remember all of the personal items you owned at the time of a traumatic event is nearly impossible and could lead to not being reimbursed properly.

Here are a few items you should consider:

- Contact your insurance agent or company representative as soon as possible. Be aware, in the event of a major catastrophe, that there are many people seeking their help at the same time. Many companies actually have catastrophe teams that swing into action as soon as it is determined that they have extensive losses in an area.
- Closely inspect your property and cars for damage.
- Secure your property from further damage or theft and save any related receipts, since most insurers will reimburse you for these expenses.
- Most homeowner and renter policies provide coverage for temporary living expenses when there is a loss from a covered peril. Seek temporary housing if necessary.
- Be aware that there are always those who will try to profit from the losses of others. Carefully check the background of contractors and others who promise cheap repairs.



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