Homeowners Insurance: The Basics



Provided by the Insurance Education Institute

Procedure/Lecture Outline

- 1) Introduce the lesson with a video clip from Risk Responsibility Reality
 - a. http://www.theiei.org/edu/materials/rrr/i%20love%20you.wmv
 - b. Guide students through the Power Point presentation (link)
 - c. What is homeowners insurance?
 - i. A binding, legal contract between the insured and the insurer to protect the insured, their home, and belongings if they are damaged or destroyed
 - ii. A home can be a condominium, apartment, house, or mobile home
 - iii. Protection is provided against losses caused by fire, water damage, storm, theft, and other perils
 - iv. Perils are any cause of loss
 - v. Homeowners policies also protect anyone named in the policy including:
 - 1. spouse
 - 2. children
 - 3. other residents
 - 4. guests
 - vi. Also covers detached structures such as:
 - 1. garages
 - 2. sheds
 - 3. pools
 - vii. Items that are excluded or limited on a Homeowners Policy
 - 1. Items that tend to result in liability claims such as boats and ATV's
 - 2. One-of-a kind items such as jewelry, art and collections
 - 3. The insurer can opt to purchase an endorsement that covers unique items or special circumstances
 - 4. Certain natural disasters in areas prone to them are also excluded from standard coverage
 - viii. A survey conducted by the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America found that nearly two-thirds of renters do not have renters insurance
 - ix. An average two bedroom apartment can easily contain personal property that would cost more than \$20,000 to replace
 - x. Renters Insurance is relatively inexpensive to own
 - xi. Your landlord or association may have insurance, but it only protects their building
 - xii. Your belongings are not covered under their policy
 - xiii. There are several types of coverages that are important to understand
 - xiv. Renters Insurance
 - 1. Renters insurance protects individuals who live in a house, mobile home, condominium, or apartment that is owned by another person
 - 2. Protects against:
 - a. Theft
 - b. Loss of personal property
 - c. Loss of use
 - 3. Similar to homeowners insurance except that it does not cover the dwelling

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- 4. Renters Insurance Covers:
 - a. Personal possessions such as furniture, CDs, electronics and clothing
 - b. Loss of use
 - c. Medical payments
- 5. Renters Insurance does not cover:
 - a. Structural damage caused by carelessness such as damage by animals

xv. Types of Coverage

- 1. Liability Insurance
 - a. Liability insurance protects you when you are at fault or being sued
 - b. Provides coverage for bodily injury
 - i. If someone gets hurt in your home your policy will cover any medical expenses incurred from the injury
 - c. Property damage liability covers any damage done to the building and belongings of others in the building
 - d. Most policies cover the behavior of household pets
 - e. Renter is liable for events they cause or which occur within their home
 - f. Some events which are caused by a landlord's negligence may be covered by their insurance instead of renters
- 2. Loss of Use Insurance
 - a. Protects you when your home is not livable
 - i. Example: if your home is unsafe after a fire, being repaired, etc...
 - b. Most often pays for temporary housing
 - c. May pay for additional costs resulting from the home being "unusable"
- 3. Property Insurance
 - a. Actual Cash Value (ACV) vs. Replacement Cost
 - i. ACV coverage only pays for what the property was worth at the time of loss, minus your deductible
 - ii. Replacement cost coverage will pay what it actually costs to replace the items you lost, minus your deductible
 - iii. You should talk to your agent if you have items that are valuable or irreplaceable

xvi. Package Policy

- 1. Contains two or more types of coverage
- 2. Most homeowners policies are packages which include property, liability, and loss of use xvii. Take Inventory
 - 1. To ensure that you are compensated for any belongings you lose in a loss you should inventory all of your personal belongings
 - a. Photograph or videotape each room
 - b. Keep receipts for major items
 - c. Keep documentation in a place other than your home

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xviii. How to reduce risk

- 1. You can protect yourself against a loss by following basic guidelines
 - a. Develop good security habits
 - b. Lock your doors
 - c. Install deadbolts
 - d. Don't let your house look vacant
- 2. You can protect yourself against a loss by following basic guidelines
 - a. Reduce Water Damage
 - i. Check the pipes in your house
 - ii. When you go away have someone watch over your house
 - iii. Turn off the taps to your washer
 - b. Reduce Fire Risks
 - i. Install and maintain fire alarms
 - ii. Have an electrician examine your electrical systems
 - iii. Unplug heat producing appliances
 - iv. Don't leave things on the stove unattended
 - v. Have your furnace inspected regularly