

Fall 2002 Insurance Newsletter

Please read this important information about your financial protection.

Dear Premier Group Home/Dwelling Insurance Customer:

We are your Home/Dwelling insurance agent and we periodically send out newsletters to inform you on some of the conditions in the insurance industry that affect your insurance rates. Currently, there is an industry wide imbalance in premiums collected against claims paid out. Insurance companies have paid out more claims than premium received. Consequently, they must raise rates. In an effort to help keep your rates low and your mortgage payment the same, (your mortgage payment includes your insurance premium), we have listed some home maintenance tips to help you prevent unnecessary claim submissions. Preventing claims is critical to your protection and your finances. See below for some winter claim prevention tips.

- Clean your gutters of leaves so that when winter comes the ice and snow will not build up and damage your home.
- Have your heater maintained and checked with a reputable contractor to eliminate potential fire hazards like blocked chimney from bird's nests or small animals.
- Keep your sidewalks clear of ice and snow immediately after a storm to prevent justified and unjustified slip and fall lawsuits.
- Keep a savings account to pay for the repair and damage of sudden pipe leaks and self-insure (cover the cost yourself) for this common maintenance type of claim.
- *View insurance as coverage for catastrophic and financially burdensome protection.* Try not to use insurance for the small maintenance type of claims that are unexpected but affordable.

The consequence of submitting a claim to your insurance company today may unfortunately cause your insurance premium to increase substantially and increase your mortgage payment. Any claim history could prevent you from acquiring insurance from other insurance companies.

If you have any questions, feel free to call our office and talk to the Customer Service team of Madeline Banks, Kathy Barchman and Margaret Cunningham.

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