MANRY RAWLS

INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1872

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Personal Connections

Personal Umbrella Covers Many Risks

A home insurance portfolio should include a personal umbrella policy or catastrophe liability endorsement. Whatever the name, the function is the same: to increase the policy's liability limits for bodily injury, property damage and personal injury. Such limits may extend to cover claims resulting from accidents involving individual actions, autos, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, watercraft, homes and other types of property.

These days, it can be difficult to gauge how costly injuries to others or damage to their property caused by you or your dependents could be. What is certain is that your personal assets are at risk if your insurance doesn't pay enough. Sometimes, the limits established in your auto, home and ancillary policies aren't high enough to cover the full costs of your liability. Imagine if you were at fault in the destruction of a high-end sports car or the death or disability of a high-earning head of household. One accident at your home or in your car could expose all of your assets if your insurance isn't adequate.

Personal umbrella insurance can help in these situations. Talk to one of our representatives about your options for enhancing the coverage limits on your home and auto policies.

Rented Watercraft Liability

While many home insurance policies extend liability insurance for the use of a rented or borrowed boat, coverage is often limited based on the size or length of the vessel. For example, coverage for jet skis, motorboats and other non-sailing vessels is typically based on horsepower. The maximum horsepower for a vessel covered under the policy is usually between 25 and 50 hp.

Coverage for non-owned sailboats is usually based on length. For example, your liability for the use of a rented or borrowed sailboat that is 26 feet in length or smaller is usually covered; although, some companies may cover longer ones.

Before you rent or borrow watercraft this summer, review your home insurance policy for information on coverage. The rental agreement might also provide insurance. If it does, check if it's limited to vessel damage or if your liability for bodily injury and/or property damage to a third party is included.

Remember that automatic coverage extensions available for non-owned watercraft may not apply to watercraft you own. If you purchase a vessel, you will likely need a separate policy for any coverage to apply.

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Trailer Accidents—Home or Auto?

Summer is here, and that means it's time to load up the trailer with equipment and supplies for road trips and recreational outings. But what happens if the trailer comes unhitched or an item comes loose and causes an accident?

The good news for drivers is that bodily injury and third party property damage caused by a wayward trailer or its cargo are covered under the liability portion of the personal auto policy. Unfortunately, the same policy will not pay to repair or replace your items on or in the trailer, such as boats, bicycles, lawn equipment, tools and other items that may be damaged. Some of these items will be covered under your home insurance policy. Others may require separate, specific insurance.

When packing up that trailer, here are two important questions to ask:

- Are my limits of liability sufficient to cover the cost of an accident I cause if the trailer comes unhitched or something I pack comes loose?
- If they are damaged or stolen, are the items in or on my trailer adequately insured under my home or another policy?

We can help you with the answers. Before you take the trailer on the road, give our service team a call.

Foreclosure Exposure

Record home foreclosures are partly responsible for the number of "For Sale" signs in yards around your neighborhood. Often, when a home is in foreclosure, no one takes responsibility for the maintenance of that home and its premises. This can mean heightened risk for surrounding homeowners since un-maintained real estate can increase the probability of damage to adjacent property.

For example, dead limbs and trees can easily fall onto neighboring homes, and debris on the ground can be sent flying in heavy winds. If an un-maintained home is engulfed in flames, the risk of that fire spreading is much greater. Insects and vermin can also make their way across the property line to cause problematic infestations that probably aren't covered by insurance. Vacant homes are also often targeted by thieves and vagrants, who might see something they like about your property, too.

If you suspect a neighboring home is vacant, take steps to protect your property:

- Make sure your alarm systems are functional and consider hiring a pest control service.
- Maintain your landscaping and clear out dead limbs and growth around property lines to keep fires from spreading.
- Contact your attorney before performing maintenance on the vacant property, as there could be a liability concern.

Collector Car Fun

With the warmer weather, many Americans will take to beaches, parades and fairs to showcase a hobby they share with millions: collector cars.

For insurance purposes, a collector car doesn't necessarily have to be old. Rather, it has to be appreciating or maintaining its value. For these cars, a standard personal auto policy is likely not the best type of insurance. A collector car policy can offer coverage options owners of these cars need and, due to the fact that they are designed for cars that are not regularly used, may be cheaper than a standard policy.

If you are the owner of a collector car, we can help you obtain an insurance policy that has:

- Reimbursement limits that increase along with the value of the car
- A choice of body shops that specialize in vintage vehicles
- High limits for comprehensive, collision and liability coverage
- Coverage for the fair replacement of rare or hard-to-find parts.

Talk to us about insuring your collector vehicles today.