

# the **ADVISOR**

ISSUE 1 • 2016

A PUBLICATION FOR GUIDEONE INSURANCE PERSONAL LINES POLICYHOLDERS



## HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU REVIEW YOUR HOMEOWNERS POLICY?

**YOUR HOME IS ONE OF YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS, SO IT MAKES SENSE TO ENSURE IT IS PROTECTED. ONE OF THE BIGGEST THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME IS TO HAVE A HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE POLICY, COVERING YOUR HOME AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS.** However, these insurance

policies should be specific to your needs and home. Therefore, your homeowners policy should frequently be reviewed and adjusted as needed. According to the Insurance Information Institute, there are four instances in which you should review your policy:

**1. The policy renewal date** – Rather than automatically renewing your policy, you should meet with your agent and ask questions that may affect your decision to renew or adjust your policy needs. Ask your agent about:

- Potential need to raise coverage based on new valuable possessions or home structural changes;
- Potential need for flood, earthquake or personal umbrella liability coverage;

- Coverage changes;
- Separate deductibles for different risks;
- Ways to save money by changing your deductible; and
- Available discounts.

Answers to these questions will ensure you have adequate coverage at the best value.

**2. Your home has become safer** – Adding a security system or other devices that improve the safety of your home may affect your rate. You also may qualify for a discount.

**3. You've made a large purchase or alteration to your home** – Any expensive or high-value items bought, such as a diamond ring or large electronics, that are kept in your home should be insured and included on your homeowners policy. Additionally, if you've altered a room in your home or added anything to your property, such as a garage or shed, this also should be adjusted in your policy.

**4. There is a lifestyle change in your home** – If the residents of your home change, such as individuals moving in or out, or if your home is used for business purposes, these changes should be reflected in the policy.

Reviewing your policy is important, as you always want to be sure you're getting the best value when it comes to your homeowners policy. Consider what your premium is and what your policy covers. As a reminder, your insurance agent can help answer any questions you may have. Think about the last time you reviewed your homeowners policy. Make sure it is being done at the right times and see that the policy adequately reflects your needs. ■

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND REDUCING RISK,** visit the Personal Lines Consumer Information and Safety Tips section on [GuideOne.com](http://GuideOne.com).

**TO REPORT A CLAIM,** call the GuideLine<sup>®</sup> toll free at 1-888-748-4326 any time – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ANY OF THE FEATURES IN THE ADVISOR,** contact your GuideOne agent, or call 1-888-218-8561 to locate an agent near you.



## VIEW THE NEW GUIDEONE.COM

**IN 2016, VISITORS TO GUIDEONE.COM WILL NOTICE A NEW LOOK AND FEEL OF THE SITE. THE GUIDEONE WEBSITE RECENTLY RECEIVED A REVAMP, INCLUDING A NEW RESPONSIVE DESIGN AND USER-FRIENDLY FEATURES.**

Viewers will notice a more simplistic appearance, seeing more photos and icons to give readers the ability to easily find what they're looking for. The new site will continue to offer customers the capability to make payments online and use any other features from the former website. View the refreshed website today by visiting **GuideOne.com** on your computer or mobile device. ■

## FACTORS THAT DETERMINE YOUR AUTO INSURANCE PREMIUM

**WHEN IT COMES TO PURCHASING AUTO INSURANCE, NOT ALL PREMIUMS ARE THE SAME. THERE ARE A LOT OF FACTORS THAT GO INTO DETERMINING THE PRICE OF AN AUTO INSURANCE POLICY.** These factors

ultimately define how likely it is the driver will be in an accident. According to the Insurance Information Institute, the price of your auto insurance may depend on the following factors:

- **Your age** – The older you are, typically the more mature driver you are;
  - **Your gender** – Women tend to have fewer accidents;
  - **The car you drive** – The cost and level of safety often affect a premium;
  - **Your credit** – This considers payment history, bankruptcies, collections and outstanding debt; and
  - **The type and amount of coverage** – How much coverage you buy and if you choose to purchase collision insurance will be two of the first factors to determine your premium.
- **Your driving record** – More accidents or traffic violations could lead to a higher premium;
- **How much you use your car** – You're more likely to be in an accident the more miles you drive;
- **Where your car is parked and where you live** – Areas with risk of vandalism, theft, accidents or weather damaging your vehicle can affect rates;

While there are some factors you cannot control, some choices you make relate to others and may affect your premium. Keep these factors in mind the next time you question the cost of your auto insurance. ■



## MAINTAIN YOUR ABILITY TO PAY YOUR MORTGAGE OR RENT DURING A LOSS

**YOUR FAMILY COULD BE STRUCK BY AN ACCIDENT AT ANY TIME CAUSING A DISABILITY, AND YOUR SOURCE OF INCOME PUT AT RISK AS A RESULT.** To ensure your home mortgage,

rent or lease payments are covered after an accident leaving you unable to work, GuideOne homeowners policies include Loss of Income Protection. Visit the **Home** page under the **Auto, Home and Life** tab on **GuideOne.com** for more information. ■