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### Being Ready for Fire Disasters



Fire can strike quickly and without warning. Although firefighters may respond immediately to a fire, local officials and relief workers may also appear on the scene. A family's best defense against fire is to be prepared.

Learn about potential fire disasters, create a plan, have a checklist and maintain and review to keep your plan current.

Educating your family on what to do in the event of a fire may be the key for ensuring protection.

### Featured Article



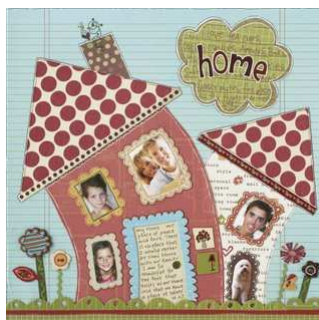
Insure yourself against electronic data processing losses. Standard commercial

Thank you for your continued business in 2008.  
We look forward to a great 2009!

Sincerely,

Frank Comiskey, CIC, CPCU

### Knowing the Basics



it.

For hundreds of centuries, people have realized the importance of being compensated in the event of a loss, particularly with respect to a home and its contents. Today, it is not uncommon to find insurance for most aspects of life; you can insure your car, your life, and even your income. However, for many people, a home is their largest asset, and obtaining a homeowners insurance policy is the first step toward protecting

Homeowners insurance policies typically cover the home and its contents, as well as liability for injuries to other or property damage. Policies are generally structured in two parts - Part 1 pertains to the dwelling and personal property coverage, while Part II addresses liability coverage. Following are the three standard types of coverage on Part 1 of a typical homeowners policy:

- The basic form (HO-1) covers the house, its contents, shrubs, trees, and other outside structures such as a garage; it insures the same against 10 major hazards, like fire and theft.
- The broad form (HO-2) adds seven more hazards common enough to consider: hot water system leaks, plumbing, heating, or air conditioning problems, freezing pipes, faulty electric wiring, falling objects, weight of ice and snow or sleet, and collapse of the building.
- The special form (HO-3) is the most common type of coverage, and it provides extensive protection to the house, excluding only specific disasters such as floods.

As well, major purchases or renovations may effect your homeowners insurance. Over time, it is important to regularly review your policy to help ensure you have sufficient coverage.

insurance packages don't cover some losses relating to computers and other electronic equipment. Electronic data processing (EDP) insurance is specifically designed to fill this gap.

In today's competitive business environment you can't afford to lose one day to a computer shutdown. Businesses that plan ahead are in the best position to keep disruptions to a minimum. Give us a call today for more information on EDP coverage at 713.785.4070.

**Happy Valentines Day!**



## Are you taking a Risk?



Considering all the things that can go wrong with a business, small business owners may be considered risk takers. However, the two risk exposures that any business owner can ill-afford to overlook: Property loss due to perils, such as fire, theft and wind or water damage, and liability loss for injuries sustained by individuals while on business premises and/or during operation of the business. In today's litigious society, self-insuring is hardly cost effective, particularly for potentially catastrophic losses. This is when a business owners policy (BOP) can play a crucial role and beneficial role.

A BOP bundles prearranged property and liability coverage in one package. Thus, a BOP provides property coverage for a building its contents, as well as losses of business income after an accident, and liability coverage for physical injury or physical damage caused by an employee, premises, operation, or product.

While every business is unique, many businesses are exposed to similar types of risk. If the risk exposures of your business are fairly common, you may want to explore the benefits of a BOP. Having most risks covered under one policy can prove to be a cost-effective management tool.

If you would like to learn more, or if you would like a quote, please call us at 713-785-4070.

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