

# Insurance Update

WE HAVE YOU COVERED:

- Auto
- Home
- Business
- Trailers
- Motorcycles
- Boats
- Cabins
- Secondary Residences
- Condos
- Tenants
- Personal Umbrella
- Rental Properties
- Travel

NOV/DEC 2009

Let our family take care of yours



## Fire Claims

Rarely a week goes by without reading or hearing about a large residential fire in Calgary. Most of us read the article quickly or glance at the TV and feel badly for the people involved.

How many of us really give serious thought to the devastation that would be caused by a fire that destroyed our home and the possessions contained within? We don't even want to think about injuries or death. None of us think it could actually happen to us.....

The causes of fires are many and varied and are highlighted under Fire Statistics in the box to the right. In the past few months we have had 3 clients experience fires. Luckily, no injuries occurred.

The first fire was caused by a halogen light being too close to the ceiling and the amount of the claim paid to date is \$201,753.00.

The second was caused when a wall mounted propane furnace overheated in the wall of a seasonal home. The amount of the claim paid to date is \$158,344.00.

The third fire was caused by a fire in the couch from the im-

proper disposal of a cigarette and the amount of the claim paid to date is \$79,424.00.

We encourage you to read "Fire Safety Tips for Your Home" on page 3. For more information, The City of Calgary: Calgary Fire Department

web site has a Home Fire Safety Program that contains a Home Fire Safety Checklist and it is excellent. You can print the check list off and take a 20 minute walk around your house to detect any hazards.

## Fire Statistics

Alberta Fire Statistics (2002-2006)

Cause	#	Deaths	Injuries	Cost
Cooking	1624	10	239	\$36,017,28
Arson/ Set Fire	989	11	73	\$58,035,31
Smoking	896	19	111	\$40,791,65
Heating Related Equipment	823	5	69	\$52,021,09
Electrical Distribution Equipment	582	7	29	\$42,325,95
Exposure Fire*	501	0	3	\$76,307,79
Candle (accident)	362	3	76	\$16,721,18
Appliance/ Equipment	181	2	20	\$9,690,213
Clothes Dryer	175	1	11	\$9,910,044
Light/ Fluorescent Bulb	165	0	10	\$7,590,602
Flammable/ Combustible Liquid/ Gas Ignition	138	6	34	\$6,239,008
Child Fire-play	45	0	19	\$2,210,484
Welding	41	0	1	\$1,032,041
All Other	1149	28	97	\$103,939,69
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,671</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>\$463,307,03</b>

\*Exposure fire is a fire that spreads to adjacent properties.

- On average, fire kills eight Canadians every week.

- Residential property fires account for 40% of all fires and a staggering 73% of all fire deaths.

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# Tips From Our Client Protection Team

## Home Inventory

A picture is worth a thousand words. Taking a photo inventory is an excellent way to show what possessions you have in your home.

Here are some tips to help you take your own photo inventory:

- Use a color camera with a flash, video camera or digital camera
- Save the images to a CD and make a couple of copies, storing one with a relative or in a safety deposit box.

If you prefer to make an inventory list, go to our website and into the "Customer Centre". You will find a Home Inventory in the downloadable forms to print. Make sure to keep a completed copy off premises!

Mike Clark, CAIB



## Security / Fire Alarm Discount

If your home is protected by a burglar and/or fire alarm system monitored by a central alarm company you qualify to save 10 to 15% off your home insurance premiums!

In order to obtain this discount the insurance companies require a copy of your alarm certificate.

The alarm system must have been installed by a certified alarm company, and service must be active.

Call us today to find out more!

Karrie Wright



## Photos & Personal Documents

Not all damage in a house fire is caused by the fire itself. Damage can also be caused by smoke or by the equipment used to put the fire out. Either way, don't leave your valuable photos, personal documents and software to chance. Be sure to burn a copy of your digital photo files & computer documents to a CD or memory card, and store them away from your home. (For example: at the office, with a friend or relative, or in a safety deposit box.) The same would apply if you have any photo negatives or antique family photos. Most times photos are a sentimental possession that money cannot replace!

Pam Dacey



## A Note From Rob...

### *Why it costs more to re-build than to build new*



It's very important that your home be insured to the amount it would cost to rebuild it after a total fire loss. Your home's replacement cost should be re-evaluated after any renovations, upgrades or alterations have been made to your home. It should also be reevaluated every few years to reflect any changes in the cost of construction. In Calgary, the cost of construction increased so rapidly over a few years that even with the inflation rates that were applied to the amount of insurance on houses, the insurance amount did not keep up. As a result, many homes are underinsured today.

*Did you know that it would cost more for an insurance company to rebuild your home after a fire loss than it costs to build a new home? Here are a few reasons:*

#### Economy of Scale

When a contractor is building many homes at the same time, materials can be purchased in large quantities for delivery, as needed... everything from framing lumber to plumbing fixtures will have substantial price discounts. This factor alone can push the cost of rebuilding, thousands of dollars higher than the cost for comparable new construction.

#### Top-down versus Bottom-up

New construction begins at the foundation and builds upwards. Repairing a house that is not destroyed often means removing the roof and rebuilding from the top down, a far more time-consuming and labour intensive process.

#### Demolition & Debris Removal

New home construction normally begins on open ground, perhaps with some brush removal, grading or other site preparation. Rebuilding begins with a partially or totally destroyed structure occupying the building site. Parts of the structure may still be standing but are unusable, requiring demolition and removal. A lot of work is usually required before the first cement can be poured or the first nail hammered in.

#### Access to the Worksite

When new homes are under construction, there is usually no landscaping, allowing for easy access to the site. When a house is being rebuilt among existing homes though, there are trees, shrubs, lawns, flowerbeds, fences, and similar obstructions limiting access. Materials often have to be off-loaded further away and hand carried to where they are needed. The impact on labor costs can be significant.

#### Building code changes

If you are rebuilding or restoring your home, you may need to meet the newer and more demanding building codes. Even undamaged parts of the structure may have to be rewired or plumbed to meet current codes. Building code changes can add thousands of dollars to the cost of restoring a damaged home.



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# Fire Safety Tips for Your Home

## Smoke Alarms

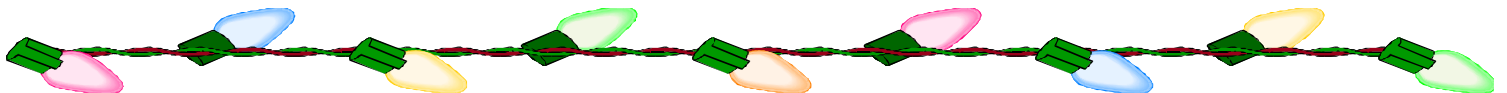
- ü Have a working smoke alarm on each level of your home and outside bedrooms
- ü Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries at least once every year if they are not hardwired
- ü Replace smoke alarms that are over 10 years old
- ü Ensure you can hear all alarms especially in sleeping areas
- ü Install smoke alarms on the ceiling or wall, at least 4 inches from corners
- ü When affixed to walls, smoke alarms should be between 4 and 12 inches from the ceiling
- ü Never disable or remove smoke alarm batteries

## Escape Planning

- ü Develop a fire escape plan with your household and practice it often
- ü Know two ways to exit from every room in your home
- ü Make sure safety bars on windows can be opened from inside your home
- ü Make sure windows open easily
- ü Crawl low, under smoke
- ü Feel closed doors. If hot, use another exit
- ü Identify a place to meet household members outside. Never re-enter a burning building
- ü Keep exits free and clear of obstructions
- ü Keep bedroom doors closed at night. This could save your life
- ü Escape first and then call for emergency assistance

## Fire Safety Walk Through

- ü Keep clothes, blankets, curtains and other combustibles at least three feet from space heaters & lamps
- ü Have chimneys cleaned and inspected annually by a professional
- ü Clear the area around the hearth of debris, flammables and decorative materials
- ü Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces and leave glass doors open while burning a fire
- ü Keep clothes, towels and other combustibles away from stove burners
- ü Never leave cooking unattended
- ü Always keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen
- ü Be sure your stove and small appliances are off before going to bed
- ü Unplug counter top appliances
- ü Check for frayed or cracked electrical cords and do not run cords under rugs or furniture
- ü Never overload electrical sockets
- ü Keep lighters and matches out of reach of children
- ü Never leave cigarettes unattended
- ü Never extinguish cigarettes in planters, on grass, peat moss or mulch
- ü Never smoke in bed
- ü Have your furnace inspected annually & keep it clear of obstructions & combustible materials



The holidays are a time for celebration with family and friends. Unfortunately, they are also a time when the number of preventable residential fires increases across Canada. That's why fire safety should be a key consideration in any holiday plans. This should be the time of year for celebration, so let us be as vigilant about being fire-safe as we are about not drinking and driving.

Young & Haggis Insurance hopes you have a safe & happy holiday season.



# Spread The Word



## Referral Program

**And the winner is...**

For July: Rob Hill

For August: Shaun Ford

For September: Sid Heeneman

Our lucky winners have already received their gift card for The Keg, and their names will be entered into our grand prize drawing December 2009 for a Westjet gift certificate valued at \$500\*!

Please keep referring your friends & family to our office for a free no obligation quote, and **YOU** could win next month!

With every referral you send our way, your name will be entered into the following draws:

- Monthly draws for a \$150 The Keg gift card
- Annual draw for a Westjet gift certificate valued at \$500\*!

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments about our referral contest please give us a call or drop us an email.

\* - A donation of \$500 to a charity of your choice will be made on behalf of those who do not wish to receive the Westjet gift certificate.

*Young & Haggis*

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Your Best Insurance  
Is An Insurance Broker

*The intent of this newsletter is to highlight certain areas of insurance. It is important that you refer to your policy wordings for specific information regarding your limits and coverage.*



On Sunday October 18, 2009 Young & Haggis Insurance participated in the 6th annual "Gorilla Run" hosted by the Calgary Zoo.

The Gorilla Run started in 2004 by Emm Kutryk as a not-for-profit event to raise funds for the mountain gorilla. The race has grown from 130 runners in 2004 to 750 in the sixth year.

In addition to providing support to the mountain gorilla, funds have been donated to bonobos, orangutans, grizzly bears and polar bears. This year a portion of the proceeds will be given to support amur leopards and snow leopards.

Around \$14,000 was raised this year with 50% being donated to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International for the protection of mountain gorillas. The other 50% has been divided amongst the above mentioned animal species' respective conservation organizations.

Young & Haggis is proud to have contributed to this great cause.