

Frank Comiskey Agency, Inc.

Newsletter

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Sending your kids and their gadgets to college



Laptops are required at many universities. Most college kids have more electronics than their counterparts five years ago. All those goodies mean there's more to look after. Which might mean there's more to insure.

In fact, 40 percent of college freshman have a laptop, 60 percent have a cell phone and 30 percent have a portable device like a Palm Pilot or a CD player, according to a release from the trade group Independent Insurance Agents of America.

When freshman head to college, their possessions are nearly always covered by their parent's homeowners policy if they're living on campus. If the parents don't own a home, the student will likely be covered by [any renter's policies](#), too.

But check the coverage. It is very common that a homeowner's or renter's policy gives you 10 percent of the coverage you have for possessions away from home - in a dorm, for instance.

In other words, if a homeowner has \$50,000 in personal-property coverage at home, the child would be covered for up to \$5,000 in property loss in a dorm. So a \$2,000 loss would be covered. But very expensive possessions might require a "floater" or add-on policy. Call us to add a floater or let us quote by visiting www.frankcomiskeyagency.com

Welcome to the agency's newsletter. This information will serve to keep you aware of developments in commercial and personal lines insurance. Please use our thoughts and suggestions for your benefit. We aim to keep you aware and up-to-date on current issues.

Make the Right Workers Compensation Decision



Are you aware of your rights and responsibilities in respect to workers compensation insurance?

Depending on your state's workers compensation (or workers comp) laws, your business might be eligible for reductions in its workers comp insurance premiums, making it more competitive in the marketplace.

Most state workers compensation laws are "competitive," meaning employers can purchase workers comp insurance from private insurers, not just their state's non-profit fund.

With workers comp insurance premiums on the rise in some states, it pays to shop and compare policies and premiums. Use Frank Comiskey Agency or www.frankcomiskeyagency.com to request quotes for a workers comp policy.

Remember, only Texas has an "elective" workers comp system. That means employers in every other U.S. state and province (within certain limitations) must provide employees this benefit.

What are the benefits of workers comp:

- ? Protect your employees: Provide your employees no-fault liability insurance for work-related injury and illness, covering medical expenses, lost wages, vocation rehabilitation, and more.
- ? Avoid Fines and Penalties: Prevent your company from being the target of an investigation by your state's department of labor or workers compensation agency.
- ? Reduce lost productivity: Workers comp can work to your advantage. Monitor temporarily disabled employee's progress and make accommodations for their early return. It's your right.
- ? Reduce litigation and waste: Save time and money by providing your employees capped rewards for work-related injuries or illness.

Quick Links

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www.houstontx.gov/oem/evac.html

Errors & Omissions Insurance: It's Not Just for Service and Technology Firms Anymore



Gone are the days when only select "professionals" need professional liability insurance like errors and omissions - and companies still operating under that assumption may have critical gaps in their insurance portfolios.

Due to evolving business and legal environments, manufacturers and other companies that provide products or services to third parties need protection beyond their general liability (GL) policies. Among other things, standard GL policies respond to claims made or lawsuits brought by third parties for bodily injury and physical injury to or loss of use of tangible property. However, GL policies don't respond to claims or lawsuits for other types of financial losses, which is why errors and omissions insurance is quickly becoming a critical part of many companies' insurance portfolios

Even Good Companies Can Have Bad Luck

Despite your company's best efforts and hard work, it may be sued by a dissatisfied customer who alleges mistakes were made. Sometimes the allegations aren't even against your company, but against a subcontractor it hires.

Consider these instances where your company may be at risk of significant legal liability because they caused a financial loss to their customers:

- ? A manufacturing error results in loss of revenue
- ? Improper use of raw materials causes the failure of a product, resulting in loss of earnings
- ? A subcontractor's error causes economic injury
- ? An installation mistake results in loss of income
- ? A design error causes a product to function improperly, resulting in lost revenue

E&O and your Business

There are other reasons your business needs E&O protection as part of your overall insurance portfolio.

- ? To meet emerging market needs, your business may add new services, such as maintenance, installation, design and delivery, thereby increasing your exposure to errors and omissions losses.
- ? While well-written contracts can help protect against lawsuits, even clear and concise contracts are subject to legal attack.

- ? More and more contracts require errors and omissions protection.
- ? An errors and omissions lawsuit must be defended, even if the suit is unfounded and groundless.
- ? As it can be difficult to determine which component part causes a product failure, all part providers in the supply chain may be sued.
- ? If your business does not have errors and omissions insurance, the directors and officers of the company may be liable for failure to obtain proper insurance.