

ABM

Insurance & Benefit Services, Inc.

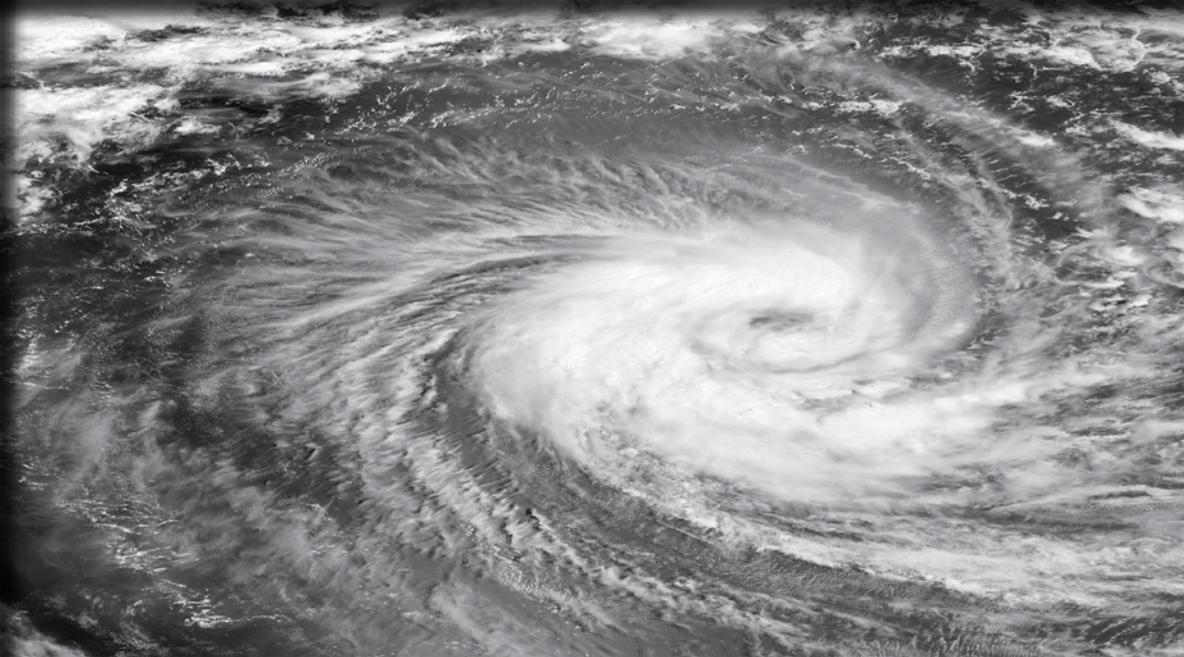
Your one stop for insurance needs! 2020

1-800-362-2809 • www.getagreatquote.com

Our Exclusive Newsletter for Individuals

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Storms are Coming, Are you Ready? Pg1-2
- Mike's Notes Pg 2-3
- 10 Steps to find the Right Auto Insurance Pg3-4
- Bad Jokes of the Month Pg4-5,7
- Meet Our Representative Pg 4
- Homeowners Fail to Protect Against Water Damage, Most Common Property Claim Pg 5
- You May Be Shocked by How Much Healthcare Deductibles Have Risen Pg 6-7
- How can I replace my Medicare card? Pg 7
- Referral program Pg 8



Storms are a Coming, Are you ready?

Storms in Texas often happen with little or no warning. Being prepared helps protect your family and property and can save you time and frustration if you file an insurance claim.

Make an inventory

Make a list of the items you own and update it at least once a year. Include the serial number, value, and date you bought each item. Take pictures or videos of each room in your house, including the closets and drawers. If you file a claim, the list and pictures will make the process faster.

Find your insurance cards and policies

Make copies of your paper documents or email them to yourself so you'll have them if you need to leave your house. If you have health, auto, or homeowners insurance cards, put those in the bag you'll take if you leave.

Know your deductible

The deductible is what you have to pay before the insurance company will pay. Most companies subtract your deductible from the amount it owes you. For example, if you have a claim for \$1,000 and a deductible of \$300, the insurance company will deduct \$300 from your claim check.

Continued from page 1

Know where you can see a doctor

Know the ways you can get health care if you leave your area. This might mean using a doctor outside your network. Ask your plan if you'll have to pay more. Also know your other options, like which urgent care centers are in network and which telemedicine doctors your plan pays for.

Look at your policies

Make sure your insurance policies are up to date and provide enough coverage. Your coverage limits might be too low if you've built onto your house or bought new furniture or electronics.

Review your coverages

The type of insurance you need depends on what you want to insure and where you live. Homeowners policies don't cover damage caused by floods. They also don't cover wind or hail damage if you live on the Gulf Coast. Learn more about wind, flood and the other types of insurance you can buy.

Depending on your situation, you might think about buying:

- Renters insurance. It pays to repair or replace personal property (things like your clothes, furniture, and electronics) if they are stolen or damaged.

Do you need renters insurance.

- Comprehensive auto coverage. Comprehensive (other than collision) coverage will pay to repair or replace your car if it's damaged or destroyed by hail, wind, fire, or flood.
- Replacement cost coverage. Replacement cost is the amount it would take to rebuild or repair your house at current construction costs. To ensure that you can rebuild your house if it's destroyed, buy a policy with replacement cost coverage. Also consider replacement cost coverage on your personal property.
- More coverage for jewelry or art. Homeowners policies limit what they'll pay for things like jewelry and art. If you own expensive jewelry, art, or other items, talk to your agent about adding more coverage.

Contact your ABM Insurance agent to make sure you are all taken care of. Call us at 281-448-3040.



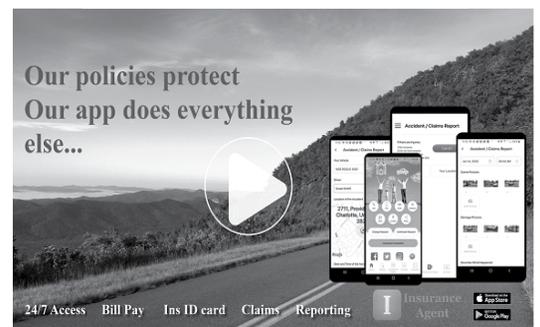
Mike's Notes

We have made some exciting changes. Technological advances with computers, smart phones and programs continue to help us improve the experience you have with our agency. Life is 24/7 and we have been searching for a reliable, secure system that would enable our clients to access their policy information when they needed it.

After months of testing, we are happy to announce that we have a application that you can install on your smart phone / tablet to access your policy information, report claims, download auto ID cards and much more. Please visit the Google Play or Apple app store to download for free. Its called Insurance Agent

Self-Service Certificates For Commercial Clients

Publish Certificates of Insurance from a secure web-based portal 24 hours a day. Commercial Insureds can add or edit certificate holders, generate certificates, and send



them to the certificate holder. Save time and work for both the agent and the insured, making the burdensome process seamless for everyone.

24/7 Access

Insureds generate certificates at any time and from any device or browser.

Certificate Holder Flexibility

Insureds can select or add certificate holders and email the certificate to them.

Save Time

Eliminate phone calls from the insured and time spent creating certificates

For more information contact ABM at 281-448-3040.

10 steps to find the right auto insurance

Shopping for auto insurance is like shopping for any major item. It's a good idea to shop around to find the policy that best meets your needs and budget. Certain coverage is required by state law, and other types are optional.

1. Liability insurance is required.

State law requires people who drive in Texas to pay for accidents they cause. Liability insurance pays to repair or replace the other driver's car and pays other people's medical expenses if you're at fault in an accident.



In Texas, you must have at least \$30,000 in liability coverage for each injured person, up to a total of \$60,000 per accident, and \$25,000 for property damage per accident. This basic coverage is called 30/60/25.

2. Decide how much liability coverage you need.

Because of car prices and the high cost of medical care, the minimum amounts might not be enough to pay all of the costs if you're at fault in an accident. Other drivers could sue you to collect the difference. Consider buying more than the minimum limits to protect yourself.

3. Decide what kinds of other coverage you need.

Liability insurance doesn't pay to repair or replace your car or to treat your injuries. Other types of coverage to consider include:

- Collision – pays for damage to your car.
- Comprehensive – pays for damage from fire, hail, vandalism, or theft.
- Uninsured or underinsured motorist – pays for auto damage, medical treatment, lost wages, pain and suffering, and other expenses if the driver who caused the accident didn't have enough insurance or didn't stop.
- Medical payments – pays medical bills resulting from an accident.
- Personal injury protection – pays for medical bills, plus 80 percent of lost income and the cost of a caregiver for an injured person.

4. Get price quotes from several companies.

- Use TDI's Help Insure to get sample prices and compare policies. It also provides information about a company's complaint record, financial rating, and recent rate changes to help you find a good company and a good price.
- Once you've narrowed your search, contact your top choices to get price quotes. Use our worksheet to compare companies and policies.

ABM Bad Jokes Of The Month...

What is the best day to go to the beach?

Sunday, of course!



Continued from page 3

5. Look at a company's complaint record.

A good way to check a company's customer service is to look at its complaint record, which is measured by a complaint index. A value of 1 is average. Less than 1 means it gets fewer complaints than the average insurance company, and a number higher than 1 means the company gets more complaints than average.

6. Decide on a deductible.

A deductible is the amount you have to pay before the insurance company will pay. For example, if you have a claim for \$1,200 and a deductible of \$500, the insurance company will deduct \$500 and pay you \$700. The higher your deductibles, the lower your premium.

7. Ask about discounts.

Most companies offer discounts if you reduce the chances of a loss. Common discounts include taking defensive driving or driver's education courses, maintaining a good driving record, having more than one car on a policy, and having other policies with the same company.

8. Verify the company's license.

Once you decide on a company, check to make sure its license is up to date.

9. Avoid gaps in coverage.

Never cancel a policy until you get your new policy or a written statement that proves you have coverage. Keep shopping if a company turns you down. If you have trouble finding insurance, ask an insurance agent about getting coverage through the

10. Know where to get help.

We have staff ready to answer your questions from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday. Call us at 1-800-362-2809.



Kimberly Elliot

Meet Our Representatives...

Kimberly has 19 years of experience as a Commercial Lines Account Manager. She specializes in Business, Contractors, Trucking, Energy, and Marine coverages. Kimberly believes good customer service is consistently exceeding customer expectations and going out of her way to help people solve their problems. Kimberly has three children, one son-in-law, and a granddaughter named Grace Taylor. She enjoys family time, volunteering, hiking, and making homemade soaps.

Homeowners Fail to Protect Against Water Damage, Most Common Property Claim

There continues to be a disconnect between homeowner beliefs and behaviors, especially when it comes to protecting against the most common source of property-related damage: **water**. That's according to the annual Chubb Homeowners' Risk Survey.



The study found several inconsistencies between homeowner beliefs versus their actions:

- The overwhelming majority of homeowners surveyed (89%) report being "very" or "somewhat" confident in their ability to check for possible damage or maintenance issues around their homes. But more than four million homeowners still submit a property claim each year.
- External weather threats and internal water damage round out the top three concerns for homeowners when it comes to perceived home threats. Yet, no more than one of every five homeowners surveyed takes any single water-related risk mitigation best practice.
- Half of all homeowners (51%) think a plumbing or appliance water leak costs less than \$5,000 in amage. However, according to Chubb's internal claims data from 2014 through 2018, the average water leak cost is more than \$55,000, and the average water back-up loss for homeowners is almost \$45,000.

Of those homeowners that tried to mitigate water risk, the Chubb survey found that many are not taking the right steps. According to the survey, less than 20% of respondents implemented any single water risk mitigation best practice. While water is only becoming a greater threat to homeowners, for the most part, the percentage of homeowners taking the necessary risk mitigation best practices for water has decreased year-over-year.

The report also said that homeowners often perceive claims for wind damage, which often occur in tandem to weather-related flooding incidents, to be much less than average claims. The Insurance Information Institute found that the average wind/hail claim runs \$10,182. Unfortunately, 16% of homeowners believe the average corresponding damage to be under \$1,000 and a quarter think it costs between \$1,000 and \$5,000. According to the survey, however, there is one universal theme that compels homeowners to act – extreme weather. In addition to ranking as the second most pressing property concern for homeowners, two-thirds of homeowners report that when reflecting back on their most recent home improvement or maintenance project, they were motivated by an approaching storm or in response to weather-related damage. "For comparison, just 21% took home protection measures as part of a planned renovation), 9% when getting ready to put their home on the market, and only 7% in response to a neighbor, friend or family member doing the same," according to the report.

For additional information contact our home department at ABM Insurance and Benefit Services
281-448-3040

ABM Bad Jokes Of The Month...

Why are fish bad at playing basketball?

They're scared of the net.



You May Be Shocked by How Much Healthcare Deductibles Have Risen

High deductibles make paying for care difficult, but these tips could help.
By Christy Bieber

Health insurance is supposed to help cover the costs of care, but there's a catch. Most policies come with an annual deductible. While your insurance will likely cover some services even if you haven't paid it yet -- such as preventive care or cancer screenings -- you'll have to pay out of pocket for most things until the deductible is met.

This can be a problem since deductibles have become much higher for most Americans. In fact, research published last year revealed that health plan deductibles have actually tripled over the past decade for policyholders with employer-sponsored health insurance.

This dramatic increase far exceeds the growth in income over the same time period, and it has occurred at the same time that insurance premiums have gone up as much as 50%. It has left more than half of all families with deductibles over \$1,500 for individuals and \$3,000 for families, while around one in five policyholders have a deductible of at least \$3,000 per person and \$5,000 per family.

If you're facing a very high deductible on your health insurance plan, it could interfere with your ability to get the care you need. You don't want to compromise your health, so it's important to ensure you're able to afford essential medical services. These tips may help.

See if you're eligible for a health savings account

A health savings account allows you to make a tax-deductible contribution to an account you can use for healthcare spending. You're eligible only if you have a qualifying high-deductible health plan, which for 2020 is a plan with a deductible of \$1,400 or higher and a \$6,900 maximum out-of-pocket limit if the policy only covers you, or a plan with a deductible of \$2,800 or higher and a maximum \$13,800 out-of-pocket limit for family coverage.

If you're eligible for an HSA, you can make contributions up to the annual maximum limit, which is \$3,550 for individual coverage or \$7,100 for family coverage in 2020. Those who are 55 or older can add \$1,000 to these limits since they're entitled to make an extra catch-up contribution.

The ability to make tax-deductible contributions can make covering the cost of your deductible much cheaper, especially since you can also withdraw funds tax-free as long as the money is used for eligible medical care.



Prioritize saving to cover your deductible

Whether you have access to a HSA or not, you need to have money saved to cover the cost of medical services up to your deductible. You can deposit this money into a high-yield savings account if you aren't eligible for an HSA.

Try to save as much as possible each month -- even if this means cutting your budget or earning income from a side gig -- so you can quickly build up this account. The sooner you have this money, the sooner you'll have the peace of mind knowing you can cover any care you might need.

If you have to tap into your savings when you or someone in your family gets sick or hurt, rework

Continued from page 6

your budget again to restore your account balance ASAP; you never know when another medical problem could arise.

Talk to your doctor about covered care

Staying healthy can help you to avoid sick visits or other care that isn't covered until you meet your deductible. Check your policy to see what services you're entitled to before your deductible has been met.

Usually, each family member will be entitled to an annual exam, vaccines, and certain other kinds of preventive care. If you can get this care paid for, this can help you to catch problems early or even prevent health issues from occurring that might be expensive to treat.

Just be sure to let your doctor know you want to take advantage of all services covered by your insurance but don't want to undergo any procedures that aren't covered without finding out the cost first. Otherwise, you could end up being surprised by a big bill if you get a test you didn't realize wasn't included in the free care.

Don't let a high deductible interfere with your healthcare needs

There may be little you can do about a high deductible, especially if you have a limited choice of plans from your employer that all leave you with large out-of-pocket expenses.

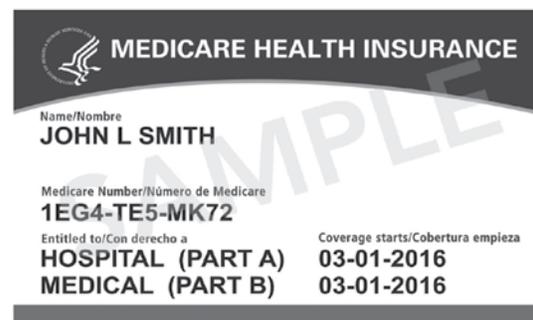
But by saving up for the cost of your deductible in advance, you can ensure you and your loved ones get the care you need. If you can qualify for an HSA, all the better: You can score valuable tax breaks that make it easier to set aside the funds you need.

If you need help give ABM Insurance a call at 281-448-3040.

How can I replace my Medicare card?

If you need to replace your card because it's damaged or lost, sign in to your MyMedicare.gov account to print an official copy of your Medicare card. If you don't have an account, visit MyMedicare.gov to create one.

If you need to replace your card because you think that someone else is using your number, call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.



How do I change my name or address?

Medicare uses the name and address you have on file with Social Security. To change your name, please follow these instructions. To change your address, visit your online Social Security account.

ABM Bad Jokes Of The Month...

No one in Antarctica has Covid-19.

It's because they are Ice-O-Lated.





Insurance & Benefit Services, Inc.

333 N Sam Houston Pkwy #750
Houston, TX 77060

www.getagreatquote.com



My experience was exceptional, they didn't try sell you what you didn't want. They sold you what you need. Also, they are among the best at bundling home and auto insurance.

-JC

IN THIS ISSUE:

Storms are Coming, Are you Ready? Pg1-2

Mike's Notes Pg 2-3

10 Steps to find the Right Auto Insurance Pg3-4

Bad Jokes of the Month Pg4-5,7

Meet Our Representative Pg 4

Homeowners Fail to Protect Against Water Damage, Most Common Property Claim Pg 5

You May Be Shocked by How Much Healthcare Deductibles Have Risen Pg 6-7

How can I replace my Medicare card? Pg 7

Referral program Pg 8

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPRING, TX
PERMIT 600

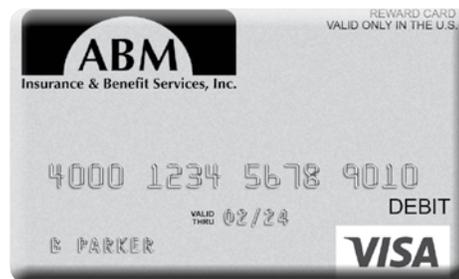
ABM Referral Program

Be sure to ask ABM about our bonus referral program which rewards our clients who send us business with \$25 Visa Gift card to use at your favorite store or restaurant.



www.getagreatquote.com

ABM offers \$25 gift certificate for those who refer a client to us and they buy a policy with ABM.



Save with ABM Insurance - up to 37%!



Instant & FREE Home / Auto Quote

If you have questions regarding your Home, Auto, Flood or RV insurance, please call our renewal expert at 281-448-3040 .

Our team is here to answer questions for our clients.

1-800-362-2809 or visit www.getagreatquote.com

Instant & FREE Home/Auto Quote

Instant & FREE Individual Health Quote

FREE Commercial Quote