

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was filled with family, friends, and lots of warm memories.

As we start 2016, here are some tips to help you better manage the risks in your life.

***AN EASY 2016
RESOLUTION – FINALLY
DO THAT PHOTOGRAPHIC
HOME INVENTORY***

Your house burns down. Your insurance company requires you to make up a list of all the personal property you have that was destroyed in the fire. They're a good company. They want to pay you for everything that you lost. There is one type of property they won't pay for however – the personal property you can't remember to include on the list! So you're getting fully paid hinges on that memory of yours. (If it's like mine, you're in trouble now!)

***A PHOTO INVENTORY
HAS TWO ADVANTAGES***

First, the photographs help to easily remember everything that you lost. Second, it saves you a lot of hassle not having to dig up receipts or canceled checks for your larger ticket items such as home theaters, grand pianos, etc.

***SO PUT THAT NEW
MOBILE PHONE WITH
CAMERA TO GOOD USE***

Photograph all your belongings. Open closets. Chests of drawers. Kitchen cabinets. Remember, this is not for Better Homes & Gardens! Don't forget all storage areas like the basement, the garage, or home workshop. Take close-ups of items like artwork so, when there is a claim, the insurance adjuster can more easily determine its value.

Naturally, for security reasons, don't post the photos online. You can copy them to a DVD stored off premises of course. Or use the new cloud technology for off-site storage.

***MY ANNUAL INDEX IS
ENCLOSED***

Going back to 1985, it contains 31 years of still-relevant articles. I encourage you to scan through it and get in touch with us if there's any issue that pertains to you for which you want more information. You can get copies of the last five years of newsletters online by clicking on the "Newsletter" tab at my website www.JackHungelmann.com.

***NEW MANDATORY CAR
INSURANCE LAW TAKES
EFFECT JANUARY 1***

Considering the mounting number of accidents caused by uninsured drivers, the state of Minnesota passed a new law where all drivers will be required to actually show proof of insurance in order to register a vehicle, renew tags, or transfer ownership. That's great news if they actually enforce it. This is just a heads up. I suggest you keep an auto ID card in the glove compartment of each vehicle you own so you will have it when you need it.

***CALIFORNIA PUTS THE
BRAKES ON DRIVERLESS
CARS***

The reason? Too many accidents! A recent Bloomberg report stated that driverless cars have an accident rate of two times that of human-driven cars. Not surprisingly, the majority were caused by human error on the part of the other driver. It appears that the driverless cars are programmed to follow the rules but not well enough programmed to adjust for errors of other drivers. So, it's back to the drawing board for Google and fellow competitors. Apparently, making driverless cars more aggressive will make them safer!

[Source: Minnesota PIA]

**INSURANCE
REQUIREMENTS FOR
TNC'S EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2015**

A new Minnesota law applies to Uber and other transportation network companies whose drivers use their personal automobile to pick up paying fares, all arranged via mobile phone apps. If you live outside of Minnesota, most other states have passed or are considering passing similar laws.

**IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING
DRIVING FOR UBER**

Your own personal car insurance and umbrella will completely exclude all coverage from the moment that you login, until the moment that you logout. That means you have no liability coverage, from your own policies, for injuries you cause, property damage and collision. You also have no coverage if you are injured by uninsured or underinsured motorists. The new law does require that the TNC carry \$1.5 million of liability coverage for injuries to passengers. Unfortunately, when a driver is logged in and cruising for passengers, the law only requires the TNC to carry liability coverage of \$50,000 per person, \$100,000 per accident for injuries and \$30,000 for property damage. The TNC coverage is probably the only coverage the driver will have and I bet that 80% of them don't realize they have that gap!

**SOME EVENTUAL HOPE
FOR DRIVERS**

A handful of insurance companies are starting to offer endorsements to their current car insurance that will cover the insurance gap from login to logout.

But it will probably be a couple of years for those to become readily available. In the meantime, the gap exists. Even if you get an endorsement on the car insurance, you won't be fully protected until the endorsement becomes available on the umbrella insurance also.

**BEING AN UBER
PASSENGER –
STORYTIME**

Last summer, while visiting my daughter and grandkids in Seattle, they decided to take my wife and me to a Seattle Mariners baseball game. Unbeknownst to me, they had arranged for transportation through Uber. Both ways! (I had just finished the newsletter where I wrote about the possible risks of being an Uber rider. Insurance questions. Security concerns. No formal training. An unknown driving record.) I rode in the front next to the driver. The ride to the ballpark was smooth and uneventful. The ride home was with a college kid who liked to change lanes a lot and had a lead foot. It was a little nerve-racking.

One final thought on photographic inventories. You can delegate the job to one of the children who loves to take pictures. (Yes, I am talking to you, Q-man!)

All the best!

Jack Hungelmann



Insurance for Dummies second edition, authored by Jack Hungelmann. Buy it online at www.dummies.com or www.amazon.com.

