


**RAI GRANT INSURANCE BROKERS**

BETTER COVERAGE, BETTER PRICE™

**NEWSALERT**

## YOUR CAR IS RICH TARGET FOR INFORMATION THIEVES

**P**ICTURE A sedan driving on a highway anywhere in Canada. It has Bluetooth capability, allowing the driver to make and receive phone calls without taking her hands off the steering wheel.

The contacts stored on her smartphone are accessible from a menu displayable on the dashboard, allowing her to call a friend with one press of a button. Just as easily, she can

choose songs stored on her phone or scan radio stations.

The car has a GPS system that shows her location and where she is going.

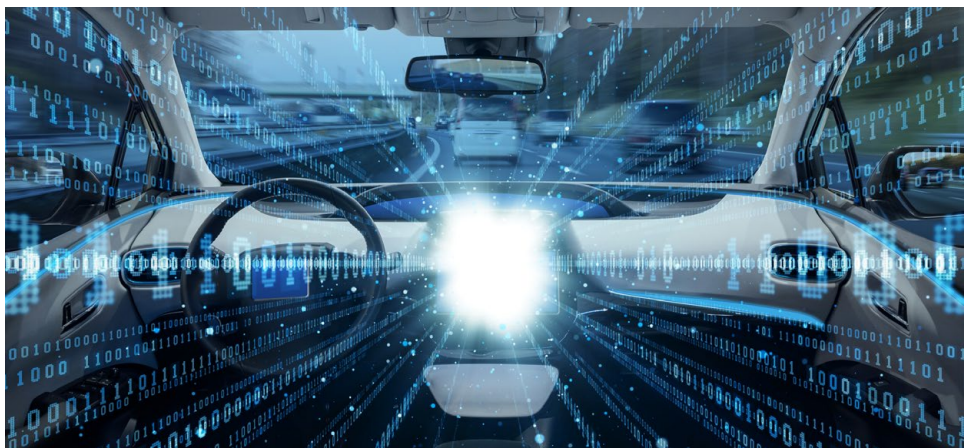
But all of these conveniences make information available to skilled cyber criminals.

A recent report by British price comparison company Uswitch showed that cyber attacks on vehicles in the United Kingdom that are connected to computer networks grew seven-fold between 2016 and 2019. The number of attacks rose by 99% just between 2018 and 2019. Experts expect those numbers to get worse.

While our driver might be uncomfortable with the idea of a stranger knowing what she's listening to, the problem is more serious than that. Multiple parts of a modern car are computer-controlled, including:

- The mechanism for locking and unlocking the vehicle
- Bluetooth technology
- Onboard diagnostic systems
- Steering and braking
- Engine and transmission
- Tire pressure monitoring
- Airbags

See 'Patches' on page 2



## WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER!



Paul Rai

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. The past three months have been truly difficult and challenging times for us all.

In the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, insurance brokers were declared an essential service. This is a duty and responsibility that we at RGI took very seriously. In a matter of days we were able to pivot our business, transitioning over 90% of our staff to working from home all the while maintaining the high levels of service that our clients have come to expect from us.

I am so proud of our team at Rai Grant Insurance Brokers! We have communicated with thousands of clients and assisted them through these difficult times. We have provided expert advice on how to reduce insurance costs and protect families and businesses as we navigated through this pandemic – and continue to do so.

But a change in seasons seems to have brought with it new hope and a cause for optimism as our efforts to “flatten the curve” have yielded some positive results and our governments begin the gradual tasks of reopening the economy and restoring a sense of normalcy to our lives. In the weeks and months to come, we will continue to guide and serve our clients as we have always done and we hope for better days ahead.

As always, I hope you find the content of this newsletter timely and useful. If there is an insurance-related topic that you would like us to address in a future newsletter, please let us know!

Take care everyone!

## CONTACT US


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## LEASING A CAR? PUT IT IN YOUR COMPANY NAME

**A**S A BUSINESS owner or company director wanting to lease a car for yourself, you have the choice of either business contract or personal car leasing, and each option has its own implications, benefits and disadvantages, particularly in terms of insurance.

And if you are using your new car mostly for work (think sales calls and visiting job sites), and you bought it in your name, that mistake can cost you as your business won't be able to insure it properly.

Your personal auto policy will provide coverage for some business use of your vehicle. The same is true for your employees' personal auto policies, which also cover some business use of their vehicles.

But, a personal auto policy is unlikely to provide coverage if the vehicle is used primarily in business.

The personal auto policy, whether yours or your employee's, may not have high enough limits to protect your business.

For example, take this scenario: You are driving to a business meeting while having an intense conversation on your phone with your production department and you plow into a car in front of you, injuring the driver and three occupants. Then they sue you and your company.

If you have only a personal auto policy, your insurer will probably defend you personally and pay the claim up to the policy limit.

Your personal auto policy insurer will not defend or pay damages on behalf of your business, however.

Most certainly, once your policy limits are exhausted your business could be on the hook for the rest of the damages, but your firm's insurance would likely not cover it.

If you or your employees are driving personal vehicles on business and relying on your personal auto policies, be sure you and they have sufficient liability coverage to protect your company in the event of a serious auto accident.

Do not expect to rely on a personal umbrella policy for any claims that arise from business use of a vehicle. Typically, the personal umbrella excludes all claims occurring in the course of a business endeavor.

### The takeaway

If you are in the market for a new car that you'll be using a significant amount of the time for work, you should seriously consider leasing it in your company name. It will save you from headaches later if you are involved in an accident.❖



Continued from page 1

## Regularly Install App Security Patches

Hackers break into cars by exploiting security flaws in their software and those in smartphone apps that connect to them.

### WHAT CAR HACKERS CAN DO

- Scan for the signal that a key fob uses to communicate with a car and use that signal to unlock it, thus enabling an easy theft.
- Take control of climate control systems, leading to drained batteries, a serious problem for electric vehicles.
- Take control of braking and acceleration.
- Turn the engine on and off.
- Identify the vehicle's location.
- Access contact information (names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses).

### How to protect your car and data

There are some steps drivers can take to protect themselves:

- Limit the number of phone connections and personal data shared with the car.
- Regularly install app security patches.
- Download apps from reliable sources (Apple and Android stores)
- Monitor how a newly installed app affects the phone's battery life. Malicious apps running constantly in the background will weaken the battery.

Modern cars offer multiple conveniences that make traveling more pleasant, but those conveniences come with risks. Car owners must keep these risks in mind when they choose cars and apps for their smartphones. ❖





## Homeowner's Coverage

# INSURANCE ISSUES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

**A**T FIRST glance, it seems like the coronavirus outbreak would not affect your homeowner's coverage since it's a disease that isn't likely to impact your premiums or force you to file an insurance claim if you or one of your family members contracts COVID-19.

But, because of the circumstances of many of us who now working from home and people self-isolating, there are a few instances you need to be aware of that could require you to take some action on your policies.

Also, if you have a claim at this time, you and the insurance company may need to make special arrangements as it's unlikely that the insurer can send a claims adjuster to your home during the ongoing health crisis.

And what if you can't afford to renew your policies if your income stream has dried up?

Here's what you should know about your homeowner's insurance at this time.

### Business at home

If you have had to move your business to your home, you may want to review your homeowner's coverage.

A typical policy has low limits on business property (usually up to about \$2,000), which would likely not be enough if your equipment is damaged or stolen.

If you are suddenly running your business from home, please call us and we can go through your policy and, if needed, we can work with your insurer to see if they offer a home business endorsement or higher coverage limits for business property.

Also, if you are running an Airbnb out of your home for a room or another property, you should have purchased landlord coverage or home-sharing coverage as a typical homeowner's policy may not cover damage incurred by paying guests.

At this time, you are likely not getting anybody staying at your place, so you should contact your insurance company about pausing or canceling coverage since you will have no need for it for a while.

### Filing a claim

If you have an incident in your home and need to file a claim, there's a good chance that your insurer will be unable to send an adjuster for an inspection. Most homeowner's insurers now have apps or offer you the ability to file your claim online on their website.

The procedures for filing a claim using an app or doing it on your insurer's website is pretty straightforward. You can start by taking pictures of the damage and providing receipts or a list of the property that may have been damaged or stolen. If it was stolen, make sure you file a police report and submit that with the claim as well.

But, if you have a high-dollar claim, the insurer may send an adjuster to inspect the damage before they pay the claim. For smaller claims, it's likely they will pay them out.

### What insurers are doing

Insurers have made adjustments to their operations and policies during this time, as well. Their actions will vary from company to company, but there are similarities in some of their responses:

- Some insurers have announced that they won't cancel a policy for a policyholder who is temporarily out of work or has seen their income drastically cut. These carriers are granting premium payment extensions.
- For those people whose policies may be in danger of lapsing because they cannot afford to pay the full premium, some insurers are working with them to reinstate the policies and set up a payment plan. They are often waiving reinstatement fees as well.
- Many insurers are postponing scheduled home inspections.
- If an insurer has asked that certain home repairs be carried out for a policy to renew, and the policyholder can't meet the inspection deadline, some companies are giving more time to finish the repairs.

Insurers are still running their call centers (in some areas, these staff are working from home). ❖



# TEN THINGS NOT TO LEAVE IN YOUR CAR ON HOT DAYS

**S**UMMER'S USUALLY a busy time, what with the kids out of school and the family taking road trips on the weekends. As we make these various trips with our kids you and they may leave things in the car that don't always do well in the heat. And when the sun's beating down, your car turns into an oven, which can take a toll on your personal belongings.

Below are 10 things you'll want to keep out of your scorching hot vehicle unless you want a hot mess on your hands and a challenging cleanup, according to The Weather Channel:

**Medications** – Being out in the sun or exposed to heat can actually change the composition of some medications or degrade their potency.

**Disposable lighters** – Lighters are very dangerous to have in a vehicle when the mercury rises because they have the ability to explode in high temperatures, which can cause damage to glass inside the vehicle or burn holes in the seats. In the worst-case scenario, it can spark a fire in your car.

**Chocolate** – Don't leave any chocolate candies in the car, as they will liquefy in a jiffy all over your seats. It may be easy to clean up on leather seats, but on fabric it's another story.

**Canned soft drinks** – If you don't want to clean up a sticky mess after the can explodes courtesy of the heat, don't leave canned soda in your car.

**Electronics** – Even though removing electronics may seem

like a no-brainer, there are often some things you generally don't remove from your car, such as your MP3 player or GPS. Don't want them damaged on hot days? Take them out.

**Sunglasses** – High heat can warp the shape of frames and the lenses in your glasses. That would be a shame if you own a pair of high-end shades.

**CDs and DVDs** – Remove any CDs and DVDs you have stored in that little slot in your car-door if you want to continue listening to/watching them. These items can warp and eventually melt if left in a hot car for a long enough period of time.

**Plastic items** – Not only will many plastics melt in high temperatures, never drink from a plastic water bottle that has been left in the car. Chemicals in the bottle's plastic could leak into the drink and cause health problems.

**Crayons** – Your kids may have left their crayons in the car on your road trip. And if you leave your car in the sun while at the aquarium or outlet mall, you may return to a dazzling mess, but still a mess that's soaked colors into your seats and carpeting. Melted crayons, since they are wax-based, are extremely hard to clean up.

**Lipstick** – Worse than crayons, lipstick easily melts in even mildly hot environments and is no match for a hot vehicle. Put it in your purse and take it with you, unless you want to be scrubbing your car later. ❖

