


**RAIGRANT INSURANCE BROKERS**

BETTER COVERAGE, BETTER PRICE™

**NEWSALERT**

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS LEAD TO PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING

**A** NEW STUDY has identified certain personality traits that can lead to distracted driving and other risky behavior behind the wheel.

The recent study found that extroverted older adults and conscientious, curious teens may be more likely than others to take risks while driving.

In particular, the researchers focused on the use of mobile phones: talking, texting or otherwise interacting with the device (like checking Facebook, surfing the internet, using

an app or searching for music).

Before studying the issue, the researchers used one of the most accepted models of personality that puts people into a continuum of each of the following common personality traits:

1. Those who are open to new experiences.
2. Those who are conscientious.
3. Those who are extroverted.
4. Those who are agreeable.
5. Those who are neurotic.

### Older Adults

- Researchers found only one personality factor that made older adults more likely to engage in talking or interacting with their mobile phones: those who were extroverted. A 10% increase in extroversion was associated with a 20% increase in instances of distracted driving from phone use.
- Researchers saw no link between personality traits and texting.

### THE FINDINGS.....

#### Teens

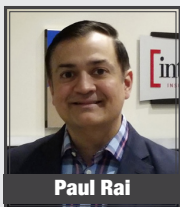
- Drivers who were more open to new experiences were more likely to engage in texting and interacting with their mobile phone. A 10% increase in openness to new experiences was associated with a 22% increase in risk for distracted driving. This jibes with earlier research that found that thrill-seekers and impulsive individuals – traits associated with openness – are cited more often for driving violations than the average driver.
- Conscientious drivers were more likely to text and engage with their phone.

Researchers were surprised to find that a 10% increase in conscientiousness correlated with a 21% increase in risk for distracted driving behaviors.

- The less agreeable a teen was, the more likely they were to use their phone while driving. The study found that a 10% decrease in agreeableness correlated with a 16% increase for distracted driving.
- Cooperative, agreeable teens were less likely to engage in distracted driving behaviors because they were more safety-minded and had respect for the law.



## WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER!



Paul Rai

Hello Everyone!

Team Ontario has made amazing progress in our vaccination program and we are slowly but surely winning the battle against COVID-19.

We are all looking forward to returning to a more normal way of life and regaining what we have lost over the past 15 months.

Most of our staff are still working remotely, but our office is working on a gradual reopening strategy that will unfold in the months to come.

We will keep you informed of our progress and we look forward to welcoming clients back to the office in the near future. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

Be safe and well!

*Paul Rai*

## CONTACT US


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## Costly Problems

# PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WATER DAMAGE

**W**HILE MOST people are understandably concerned about insuring their homes against fire loss, that risk is not what causes the most losses for homeowners.

Water damage is a more common threat and statistics show that one out of every five homes will experience some kind of damage from water each year. In fact, only wind and hail damage occurs more frequently.

A little bit of water can cause a lot of damage. Two inches of water in a 2,500 square foot one-story home can cause almost \$27,000 in damage.

The problem is more than just the monetary cost; water damage losses can disrupt your life for long stretches of time. A Texas woman lost the use of her downstairs for months after a household pet chewed a hole in a soft water line.

Risks include:

- Water escaping from leaky hoses and worn or poorly fitted connections.
- Water damage from worn or corroded pipes.
- Water can reverse course in clogged drains or toilets.
- Rain can enter through holes in a roof or through an open or damaged window.
- Water can seep in when a stream overflows its banks.

### What you can do

You can take a few simple steps to prevent your downstairs from becoming a pond:

- If water is running from your plumbing to your floor, minimize damage by stopping the flow. Shut-off valves are under sinks, against bathroom walls and in basements.

- Check appliance hoses and faucets for leaks.
- Look for cracks and loose connections in pipes. Get them repaired immediately.
- Check showers and tubs for worn-out caulking. Reseal as necessary.
- Install a water leak detection system. Some insurers offer a discount if you have one.

### If you have water damage...

If you suffer water damage, insurance may pay for losses depending on the damage.

While all homeowner's insurance policies differ somewhat, they typically cover damage from water that escapes from pipes in ceilings, floors and walls.

They will also cover damage from water that enters through the roof (though not the repairs to the roof, unless it was also damaged in an incident), or through a window broken during a storm.

Most companies offer coverage for an additional premium that will pay for damage when a toilet or a drain backs up.

Having the right coverage on your homeowners policy is key to making sure your covered for these types of losses.

Ensure that both Sewer Back Up and Overland water coverage is included to full policy limits on your home insurance policy.

Water can cause enormous damage to your home and result in incredible inconvenience.

Prevent these accidents if you can – and have the right insurance protection. ❖





# SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION LESSONS FROM PANDEMIC



**B**ESIDES THE health and economic devastation that the COVID-19 pandemic has left in its wake, it has also caused supply chain disruptions that have affected a number of industries.

The fallout for companies of all types illustrates the fragility of most businesses' supply chains.

The pandemic has left retailers with empty shelves due to product shortages. And manufacturing operations worldwide and in Canada faltered as a result of personnel and raw material shortages brought on by the pandemic.

But it's not only large companies that suffer, and small businesses are especially vulnerable. That's why it's important that you have in place a solid plan for averting and dealing with disruptions to your supply chain if you rely on materials and inputs from outside vendors.

Here's what you can do to manage this growing risk:

## Understand your supply chain

Start by identifying risks in your supply chain and develop ways to mitigate them.

### FOUR MAIN EXTERNAL SUPPLY CHAIN RISKS

- **Flow interruptions** – Problems with the movement of goods and materials.
- **Environmental risks** – Economic, social, political, terrorism threat and weather-related factors that affect facilities and infrastructure. The pandemic falls into this category.
- **Business risks** – Problems caused by factors like a supplier's poor financial or general stability, or the purchase or sale of supplier companies by other entities.
- **Physical plant risks** – Problems at a supplier's facility. For example, a key supplier could have a machinery breakdown and/or regulators may shut the facility down.

## Develop a plan

The best way to manage a supply chain disruption is to prepare for it. Start by undertaking a business impact analysis to prepare your company.

Form a team of key personnel to:

- Identify alternatives to key suppliers. One option is to contract

with an alternative vendor in advance, so you can certify them and ensure they can ramp up if you lose a critical supplier.

- Model the impact of disruptions on production and inventory for the four supply chain risks listed to the left. Think about how non-delivery of a key item would affect your operations.

Using that information, you can build contingencies for supply chain failures:

- Plan for how you would respond to all "what if" scenarios that could affect your operations. Be realistic about assessing your capacity to respond to these scenarios.
- Create a contingency plan for failure of any supply chain pillars. Identify the points at which you would need to execute risk-mitigating measures, like sourcing from other vendors or using new distribution channels.
- In advance, amass a contingency management team that will bridge the divide between your departments during disruptions. This team must include senior staff who are influential with top company decision-makers.
- Make sure your supply chain is flexible enough to deal with risks. Look at opportunities to address current supply chain bottlenecks; investigate alternative transportation network configurations or production systems.

## The final backstop: insurance

You can address supply chain risks with business interruption insurance or contingent business interruption insurance.

**Business interruption insurance.** This coverage, which is often included in a commercial property policy, covers lost profits after a company's own facility is damaged by an insured peril.

**Contingent business interruption insurance.** This is often a policy rider that you can purchase. It covers lost profits if an insured peril shuts down a critical supplier, part of the transportation or distribution chain, or a major customer.

This coverage is triggered if there is:

1. Damage to property that prevents one of your suppliers from making products or delivering them.
2. Damage to property that prevents your customers from receiving your products. ❖

# ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES NOT ALL FUN AND GAMES

**T**HE INSURANCE Institute for Highway Safety has issued a warning over the increasing number of deaths from all-terrain vehicle (ATV) crashes on public roads.

Between 2015 and 2017, 1,671 people died in ATV accidents on public roads – 90% of them males, according to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission’s “2020 Annual Report on ATV-related Deaths and Incident.”

Beyond the fatalities, hundreds of thousands of riders visit trauma centers for their injuries every year.

From 2015 through 2019, CPSC staff estimates that there were 524,600 emergency department-treated injuries in the United States associated with all terrain vehicles. The report also estimates that there were 140,000 emergency room visits during the period for children younger than 16.

More than three-quarters of the 11 million ATVs in America are used recreationally, while the rest are reserved for agricultural and industrial work, according to the ATV Safety Institute.

There are two factors contributing to this rash of deaths and injuries. Young, thrill-seeking males, and a vehicle designed for off-road use traveling on public roads.

Local and state-level efforts have focused on enacting laws to restrict off-road

vehicles to designated trails; however, the need to allow limited travel on roadways when accessing those trails complicates matters.

So, if you have an ATV or two, make sure that you or whoever is riding them takes the proper safety precautions.

## Accident types

Typical beginner accidents result from driving too fast for conditions or exceeding abilities. Novices are already more susceptible to exercising poor judgment, but when they travel with experienced riders, they often overreach their abilities in order to keep pace.

Handlebar kickback – losing hold of the handlebars after colliding with obstacles – is particularly problematic for beginners.

## Insurance

If you own an ATV you should also secure insurance for it to cover any damage or injuries you may cause with it, as well as comprehensive if it is stolen or vandalized. ATV coverage will often have a medical payments coverage if you or a friend is injured using the ATV. ❖

## THE ATV SAFETY INSTITUTE’S GOLDEN RULES:

- Always wear a helmet, goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.
- Never ride on paved roads, except to cross when done safely and permitted by law.
- Don’t drive on terrain beyond your abilities.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV, and no more than one passenger on an ATV designed for two people.
- Ride an ATV that’s right for your age.
- Supervise riders younger than 16; ATVs are not toys.
- Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.
- Take an ATV Rider Course. The ATV Safety Institute has a free online course at: [www.ATVSafety.org](http://www.ATVSafety.org).

