



All your insurance needs under one roof.

212 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
Tel 508-347-9343 www.mccurdyinsurance.com

Where prevention is the best insurance!

Fall 2019 Newsletter



Have Fun This Fall and Be Safe This Winter Fall is here and for many, many New Englanders it is their favorite season. Warm days and cool nights make for “good sleepin’ weather, fall foliage, fairs, festivals, and

fun! I like taking long walks and hikes, going apple picking, and stopping by local orchards for cider and yummy cider donuts. (I can easily chow down a whole bag of them!)

So have fun this fall because winter will be upon us before we know it. Make the time to get ready for winter. (Check out the helpful tips on page 3.)



Remember to practice good safety. Wet leaves can be a hazard for you and others at home and at your business.

Also remember that when you are out for a walk to be sure to walk along the road always facing traffic. And be safe, too, navigating the icy roads and walkways.

I’m looking forward to the holidays, the New Year, and to our 45th year in business! *Here’s to a fun-filled and healthy 2020.*

~ Dennis

Water Damage:

A Renter’s Potential Nightmare

According to the Insurance Information Institute (iii.org), water damage is the second most common cause of property damage. Yet, 63% of renters do not have renter’s insurance. Many tenants presume their landlord’s insurance policy will cover the damage to their belongings. Unfortunately, this is not the case.



A landlord’s insurance covers repairs to the building itself, not the renter’s personal possessions. With winter’s chill upon us, if a pipe were to freeze and break thus flooding the apartment’s interior, the landlord would be responsible for repairing the pipe and any damage to the structure. As a tenant, you would be responsible for replacing your personal property.

Or let’s flip that around. Let’s say you caused the water damage due to an overflowing tub or sink causing water damage not only to your apartment, but to other units in the building as well.



A renter’s policy can protect you from property damage to others.

Renters insurance covers your personal property in the event of a disaster. And it’s not expensive. The average policy, depending on coverage is about \$20 per month for \$20,000 policy, according to the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America.

What to do if you have a water loss:

- Take photos and/or video of the damaged property. And don’t throw anything away until your claims adjuster has completed an inspection.

And if you don’t have renter’s insurance, definitely call us now at 508-347-9343!



Identity Theft Insurance

The loss exposure from identity theft is increasing, along with ever-evolving

methods that identity thieves utilize. Where identities were previously stolen one by one, criminals are increasingly stealing massive amounts of them in a single blow.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) processed 1.4 million fraud reports in 2018, totaling nearly \$1.5 billion in losses. In their report, the FTC stated that the most common categories for fraud complaints were identity theft and imposter scams, with credit card fraud as the most widespread identity theft cases. Fraudulent tax returns to claim a refund are also prevalent.

Most un-endorsed homeowners policies do not cover identity theft, creating a significant coverage gap.

At **McCurdy Group**, we are very concerned about this loss exposure. That's why we encourage our clients to consider identity theft insurance options. This coverage can be purchased as a stand-alone policy or as an add-on to a homeowners policy. These policies are not meant to

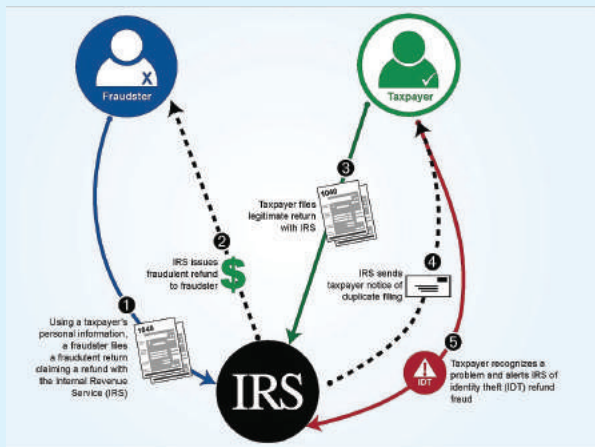
pay for the fraudulent charges or accounts themselves; they are meant to provide reimbursement of expenses associated with the process of recovering from fraud.

Here are a few examples of covered expenses:

- Fees for reapplication and the reissuing of various identification documents such as passports, Social Security cards, and driver's licenses
- Loan application fees for reapplying if the initial application was denied due to the identity fraud
- Reasonable attorneys' fees for defense of lawsuits and related costs.

Identity theft is a crime that can have terrible consequences. However, with swift and thorough action—and the assistance

and expertise of trained professionals—victims can regain control of their credit, finances, and good name.



Identity theft insurance is worth considering and the cost runs from \$25 to \$50 a year, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Give us a call at 508-347-9343 and schedule a time to talk with us about Identity Theft Coverage.



McCurdy Insurance on YouTube!

Did you know McCurdy Insurance had its own YouTube page? If not, check us out! We regularly post videos on topics we think you should know about.

Here are some of the latest:

- Fall Home Maintenance Checklist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f60uCT-FrAzA>
- Become Winter Storm Ready <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4-Y25laVz4>
- Emergency Kit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhO0kt_5X4



Like Us on Facebook

Did you know that The McCurdy Group has a Facebook page? Each week we post a blog entry that keeps you up-to-date on various insurance topics – with some surprises thrown in. LIKE us, and you'll be well connected! <https://www.facebook.com/McCurdyInsurance>



FALL HOME MAINTENANCE TASKS

Every month, we share easy tasks you can do to keep your home in tip-top shape all year long. So here are a few simple tasks you can do this autumn to prepare your home for cool fall weather!

- **Check your gutters.** Take a few minutes to ensure your gutters are clear. By making sure they're clear now, you will avoid water damage later on.



- **Clean out the dryer vent.** Lint accumulating in the dryer vent can cause a house fire. A couple of times per year, unplug the dryer and thoroughly vacuum the area around the dryer vent and hose. Remember to check the outside vent too!

- **Gather firewood.** Will you be burning a wood stove or fireplace this winter? Make certain you are using hard wood, like oak. Never burn pine in your indoor fireplace. Pine has high resin and can leave creosote, a dangerous buildup inside the chimney, that can create a devastating chimney fire.

- **Buy a roof rake** to help get rid of heavy snow after major storms. Inspect your roof before the season for any weak areas that need repair.

- **Put away the air conditioner.** If you use a seasonal air conditioning unit, then now is the time to pack it up for winter! Make sure to spend a few extra minutes cleaning all the filters and coils well. It will keep the unit in great shape and it will last much longer.

- **Winterize external plumbing systems.** It's much better to prepare for freezing temperatures before it's freezing! Winterize all exposed outdoor pipes.

- **Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detector.** This is an important one! October is a great time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are performing well. Change the batteries, test it, and replace older units.

"Millions" of Reasons Why Liability Coverage Is Important



If you've ever wondered about why we are always talking with you about liability coverage, well here's a few "million" reasons why that is so.

These are some of the actual claims we have paid over the past few years:

- Insured accident with bicycle \$658,962
- Insured hits tree; passengers injured \$782,000
- Insured hit motorcycle \$2,250,000 (never had an accident/ticket before). Rear end (speed was 5 MPH) \$268,000



- Rear end \$173,014 A MINI Cooper S before and after a rear end impact. Steve Baker, Photographer

Need we say more?

And if you are now asking yourself, "Am I sufficiently covered?" Give us a call at 508-347-9343 and we will review your policy with you.

Remember our motto:

Where Prevention is the Best Insurance!



McCurdy Group
All your insurance needs under one roof.

Dennis A. McCurdy Insurance Agency, Inc.
212 Main Street • PO Box 531
Sturbridge, MA 01566
Phone: 508-347-9343 Fax: 508-347-5798

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #25



*Where prevention is
the best insurance!*

