



NEWS RELEASE

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Don't Get Burned By Insurance Claims This Summer

Grange Insurance offers tips to have fun and stay safe

COLUMBUS, Ohio – School is out for the summer, and for many, that means vacations, cookouts and pool parties. Summer is fun, but its activities can also lead to unnecessary and expensive claims if families do not take the right precautions.

Columbus, Ohio-based Grange Insurance offers tips to help families have fun, stay safe and avoid claims that could become financial inconveniences.

1. Prepare your house for 'vacation mode.'

Families should prepare their homes for 'vacation mode' if they're planning to be gone for an extended period of time.

"Turn off the valve on the washing machine, check the back-up battery on the sump pump and put high-end electronics on a storm surge protector in case bad weather should occur that might lead to flooding or fires in the home while homeowners are away," advises Ken Kozek, vice president of claims for Grange Insurance.

Kozek also advises families leaving town to have a trusted neighbor check the home periodically, alert the local police to increase neighborhood watch, put lights on a timer, and stop mail and newspaper delivery.

2. Don't be a target for theft.

Homes are a target for theft when homeowners are away, but thefts can occur just as easily when homeowners are home.

"Summer is open-window season for houses and cars and open-door season for the garage, so be mindful of your personal belongings," adds Kozek. "If you're going to leave windows or doors open, keep things like wallets, cell phones, golf clubs and jewelry out of sight."

3. Be safe around water.

“Swimming is a great summer activity, but water can also be very dangerous if you’re not careful,” said Kozek. “Families should take precautions when it comes to activities that include water and keep an eye on kids at all times to avoid drowning.

Kozek also advises families with pools to install a fence around the premise to prevent unwanted swimmers who, if injured, could become a liability for the homeowner.

“Homeowners should also consider installing motion-activated alarms around the pool that will sound an alert if someone falls in,” adds Kozek.

4. Don’t play with fire.

Fireworks are enjoyable and fun to watch, but they can also lead to serious injury, especially to children. They’re also a leading cause of summer house fires. Grange Insurance urges families to stay safe and leave fireworks to the professionals this summer.

5. Know your coverage options when you’re away from home.

Grange Insurance encourages families to contact their independent agent before renting cars, boats or vacation homes this summer.

“Families should be aware of what their coverage options are *before* they leave for vacation,” said Kozek. “Additional coverage might be needed when renting cars, boats or homes, but in some cases, current auto and homeowner policies might provide all the coverage that is needed. Your independent agent is a great resource to help make sure you’re covered for any situation, and they can help you save money by avoiding potentially unnecessary rental charges too.”

For more information about staying safe and saving money this summer, visit www.grangeinsurance.com or call your independent agent today.

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About Grange

Grange Insurance, with \$2 billion in assets and more than \$1 billion in annual revenue, is an insurance provider founded in 1935 and based in Columbus, Ohio. Through its network of independent agents, Grange offers auto, home, life and business insurance protection. The company and its affiliates serve policyholders in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.grangeinsurance.com.

Contact:

Jill Fazekas

Corporate Communications Manager

614-445-2430

www.grangeinsurance.com

