

September 8, 2009

Car In\$urance

You may be frustrated with car insurance premiums that may creep upward. Some of the factors that could be affecting your cost are:

- Your insurance company's overall loss experience (due to more claims)
- The increased value of newer model cars
- Increases in judgment amounts awarded in auto lawsuits
- Auto loans lasting longer, meaning increased auto repair costs for older cars

There are ways to address rising costs. Gather your insurance records. Next, determine if things have changed since you last reviewed your coverage. Once this information is collected, call your agent and discuss some of the following items:

- Am I getting a discount by having my home and auto insurance with the same company?
- Does my coverage take full advantage of the discounts offered by my company?
- I have more than one car; am I getting a credit?
- Does it make sense to change my deductibles?
- Do my cars really need physical damage coverage insurance? (An important consideration for older vehicles)
- My son or daughter is on the honor roll, does this affect my premium?
- Did you know that my son took Driver's Education?
- Does the company have accurate information on how often and how far I drive?
- Is my vehicle charged an additional premium because of its type or performance?
- Do I qualify for a loss-free history or policy longevity discount?

Giving your agent accurate information helps you get the best available premium. It's important to be clear about who drives your cars and how they're used. Finally, use your agent as a resource for handling errors about your account.

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