

Coverage Corner

Finally, the agent becomes the client. In the storms that we had last week I suffered damage at both my home and my office. Let's look at these scenarios and see what will, be covered if anything and if it is covered how and how much will be covered.

I will start with my office some of you may have even seen the tree down. We lost about half of an 80 year old oak across our parking lot. It did not hit any "covered property". This is the most important factor of this loss because since it did not hit any "covered property" there is no debris removal coverage. Therefore Fraleigh and Rakow will have to bear the expense of cutting up and removing the tree. By bearing the cost that means Addam goes out borrows a chainsaw and removes as much of the tree as possible to keep the cost down. This is the same in personal lines insurance, if a tree comes down on your property and does not hit "covered property". Covered property can be defined as Real or Personal property located at the defined premises on the policy. These are things such as Dwellings, commercial building, garages, fences, playsets, pools etc.

I mentioned earlier in this article that I suffered a loss at my home as well. I had a tree come down into my above ground pool. It crushed several panels and was deemed not to be repairable therefore it must be replaced. Great, that means I will get a new pool courtesy of my insurance carrier, wrong! Pools are specifically carved out of the replacement cost provisions of most all insurance policies. That means they are covered for actual cash value which is the replacement cost minus depreciation. That means if I have a \$5,000 pool that is 10 years old and the depreciation factor for a pool that age is .50 then I will get a check for \$2,500 less my deductible. I knew this is the way the settlement would come out but if you were not familiar with the policy forms your policy contains this could be a huge shock. The good news is the pool is considered covered property so the debris removal coverage was triggered. I will get the \$500 debris removal sublimit to have it removed from the pool and from the property.

Thank you for reading and participating and remember "don't be cornered by your coverage."

This column is strictly for general insurance information please consult your local agent for the specifics of your insurance program.

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