



The Hurricane Season is coming—are you covered?

May 14th 2009

With the hurricane season just around the corner, now is as good a time as any to review your home insurance policy. Over the last few years, Saint Lucia has been fortunate to have been spared the wrath of a direct hit save for a slight brush with hurricane Dean on August 17th 2007. But we must never forget the devastation that Grenada faced as a result of Hurricane Ivan in September 2004. We know that an insurance policy on our homes will not prevent them from being destroyed but the policy gives us the peace of mind that we can recover from the damage.

So it is imperative that homeowners ensure that their policy is up to date. One common error that homeowners make is not increasing their homeowners insurance to reflect the present market value of the property. For instance, 10 years ago you would have been able to build or purchase a much larger house for \$250,000.00 than you could with the same amount today. Therefore, to ensure that in the unfortunate event that your home is destroyed, you should have an updated policy that would allow you to rebuild what you lost.

It is also important that the policy covers other disasters such as fire, floods or earthquakes. For example, it would be a grave mistake to live in a low-lying area and not have flood insurance because of the strong likelihood of your home being flooded. Another mistake that should be avoided is insuring your home but not the contents therein. Your home insurance policy should always cover the contents of your house as well as the structure itself. As you progress through life, the number and value of the contents in your home is very likely to increase and your insurance should reflect this at every stage.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when applying for homeowner or any other type of insurance policy for that matter:

- Recognize insurance as a financial necessity.
- Use insurance as a management tool in securing your financial future.
- Avoid shortcuts such as under-insurance. Insure full worth and claim full worth.
- Get professional advice on what to do and follow instructions.
- Keep all policies current and up-to-date. Review regularly.
- Get insurance advice on new activities or projects before implementation.
- Avoid last minute insurance arrangements. You can't insure a burning house!

Remember, insurance provides you with the peace of mind that your future is protected. From time to time, we may face uncertainties like fire, flood or hurricanes. However, with adequate insurance coverage, the impact of these uncertainties can be lessened significantly. If you have any questions about acquiring insurance for your home and contents, call EC Global Insurance at 451-3244, "*Our Strength is on Your Side*".