

A publication brought to you by Ihry Insurance Agency, Inc.

IHRY NEWS

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Do I Need Wedding Insurance?

Article provided by Ihry Insurance.

We're all adults here. As adults, we protect our health, our cars, our homes, and our families.

But what about the biggest day of our lives?

With the average wedding cost well into the 5 figure realm, it's worth protecting yourself from the unpredictable nature of the wedding industry and the big day itself. Through our many years of providing couples with wedding insurance, we have seen a wide variety of unfortunate circumstances, including:

- Venue catching fire days before the wedding
- Severe illness of both bride and groom
- DJ was a no-show
- Wedding dress was lost on the plane

That being said, you are probably wondering what wedding insurance is and what it covers.



What is Wedding Insurance?

Simply put, wedding insurance protects you from unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances and reimburses you for the expenses incurred. And with basic coverage running anywhere from \$150 to \$550, it's a no-brainer.

Imagine planning a winter wedding, only to have a winter storm make it impossible to reach and access the venue. Without wedding insurance, you would lose every penny. With the right coverage, you would be able to postpone the wedding and be reimbursed for all expenses – including non-refundable deposits.



What Does Wedding Insurance Cover?

Venue issues, severe weather, entertainment cancellation, and sickness are among the major potential issues facing your wedding day. With this amount of unpredictableness, let's take a look at the most important areas of coverage:

- **Wedding Location:** Provides coverage in the event that the site of the wedding or reception becomes unusable.

- **Weather Events:** Covers the costs of rescheduling due to poor weather conditions that prevent the wedding from happening.
- **Vendor, Photography/Videography, and DJ Absence:** Protects you from costs that arise if a critical service breaks their contract and does not show up on the day of the wedding.
- **Unavoidable Postponement.** Covers instances where the bride or groom is unable to attend the wedding, due to unavoidable circumstances.
- **Illness or Injury.** Provides coverage for anyone who is essential to the wedding such as the bride, groom or officiant in the event that they become sick or are injured on the day of the event.
- **Personal Liability.** Covers the cost of any third-party property damage and bodily injury that occurs at the event.

Don't forget about Hostess Liquor Liability coverage – make sure to check with your venue regarding coverage.

Depending on your concerns, wedding insurance can also provide coverage for the honeymoon, wedding gifts, and attire (suits and dresses).

What wedding insurance doesn't cover, includes:

- Voluntary cancellation (i.e. bride or groom has change of heart)
- Engagement rings



When Should I Secure Myself?

In order to ensure your protection, it is recommended that you obtain your insurance coverage as soon as you begin putting deposits down on your venue and vendors. We have dealt with cases in which vendors have dropped out just months after signing, leaving the bride and groom with a world of stress and frustration.

Contact Ihry anytime to discuss your wedding needs!



GET A FREE QUOTE



Ihry Insights

*Article provided by Curtis Kaufman, Agency Manager
Ihry Insurance*

2018 Crop Insurance Rates

The Risk Management Agency has released rates needed to calculate 2018 crop insurance premium. Revenue Protection (RP) rate changes suggest slightly higher corn premiums and lower soybean premiums. Given that 2018 projected prices and volatilities are lower than 2017 values, premiums in 2018 could be near or slightly lower than 2017 values.

Dicamba: Minnesota-Specific Training and Use Requirements

An estimated 10,000+ Minnesotans will use Monsanto, DowDupont, and BASF's new dicamba products this year. All individuals applying XtendiMax with VaporGrip Technology (Monsanto, EPA Reg. No. 524-617), FeXapan with VaporGrip Technology (DowDuPont, EPA Reg. No. 352-913), or Engenia (BASF, EPA Reg. No. 7969-345) dicamba products must undergo special product label-required training in order to comply with Minnesota Pesticide Control Law.

Dicamba or auxin-specific training requirements:

1. Attending one of the 2 hour training sessions will comply with the federal label requirement for annual special product label-required training for pesticide applicators who intend to apply XtendiMax, FeXapan, or Engenia dicamba products in Minnesota in 2018.
2. These 2 hour training sessions are offered free of charge by Monsanto, DowDuPont, or BASF and are necessary to meet the federally mandated label training requirements of the three products mentioned above.
3. Successful completion of any one of these registrants' training sessions satisfies the federal label training requirements for all the three products, regardless of the registrant offering the training.



Outlook for the 2018 Farm Bill

The Agriculture Act of 2014 — three years and two Congresses in the making — is scheduled to expire with the 2018 crop and fiscal years. Congress is on the clock to reauthorize the programs by September 30, 2018, and has taken initial steps but the bill waits behind other legislative priorities.

The outlook for a farm bill in 2018 is complicated and there are at least seven major issues likely to dominate the debate.

First and foremost is the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

Baseline. This is a 10-year forecast of spending under existing programs and it limits the funds available to the Agriculture Committees; increases in one area require offsets from others.

Second is crop insurance, with approximately \$6 billion per year in premium discount it is likely to remain a primary political target for any spending offsets or reductions. Others will look for reforms to the program that also reduce expenditures.

Third and fourth are the commodity title issues. Commodity groups that supported ARC-CO in 2014 are likely to seek revisions to the program that improve the yields used (e.g., trend yields and RMA data), as well as potential changes in response to forecasts for lower prices.

The cotton industry is seeking to have cottonseed added as a covered commodity, returning its base acres to the Title I payment programs. Dairy producers seek fixes to the Margin Protection Program. These raise significant issues, not the least of which is how any additional costs will be offset.

Some conservation interests are pushing to increase the CRP acreage cap which will have substantial costs in the CBO Baseline and require offsets. **This is the fifth issue** that Congress will need to resolve in the farm bill.

Sixth, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) remains the largest item for participation and expenditures. Partisan politics over this program resulted in the farm bill's defeat in the House in 2013 and remains to be seen how Congress will deal with the program; history and vote counting counsel against efforts to make drastic changes to the program.

The seventh and final issue for the farm bill are the unknowns that could result if Congress agrees to tax legislation. Current estimates are that the bill would add more than \$1 trillion to the deficit and debt. This could trigger automatic cuts through sequestration that would wipe out farm bill baseline or it could put pressure on Congress to seek to take drastic action to reduce spending; a situation similar to the previous farm bill debate.

Ag Groups Request Increased Funding for Agriculture in 2018

A coalition of more than 70 agriculture groups sent a letter late Thursday (12/15/2017) to congressional leaders asking for an increase in the Agriculture budget for the fiscal year 2018 Agriculture appropriations bill on which Congress is working.

The letter was sent to House and Senate Republican and Democratic appropriations leaders and to the leaders of the House and Senate.

Congress is still trying to iron out a full-year funding package and is expected to largely maintain operating funding under 2017 levels until at least mid-January.

Snowmobile Stories: Staying Safe in the Snow

Article provided by Foremost.



There's something uniquely exhilarating about snowmobiling. The excitement of speeding

through snowy landscapes makes the freezing cold winter weather barely noticeable. All that matters is the powerful machine that roars beneath you and the wildly fierce rush of adrenaline within you.

When I was a kid, I craved this experience. A friend of mine had a small youth snowmobile, but at the time it seemed like a monster of a machine. We would take turns going on joy rides, exploring nearby trails and doing loops around his house. Eventually he would grow tired of riding and head in to warm up and watch movies, but I would refuse to quit. I felt as if I had found the source of ultimate thrills, so I would often continue to ride until it was time to go home.

One day in the beginning of winter I went to my friend's house, eager to go on the first snowmobile ride of the year. It had been a while since I had last ridden there so I couldn't quite remember all of the ins and outs of the riding area, but that didn't stop me. When it was my turn to ride, I jumped onto the snowmobile and darted into the night. I was having a blast, but it didn't last long.

On my way to the first trail, I completely forgot to avoid a seven foot drop-off that would have been easier to notice were it not for the deep snow. I barreled over the ledge and for a brief moment I was airborne before crashing into the snowbank below. Thankfully, I wasn't injured. I got up and looked around to ensure my friend hadn't seen my embarrassing crash. I sighed with relief when I realized he hadn't and I vowed to myself to never make the same mistake again.

This experience taught me the importance of snowmobile safety. To help make sure you don't make the same

mistakes I did, here are five ways you can stay safe and warm during your snowmobiling adventures:

1. Be familiar with the area.

Before riding, take some time to learn about your location. Identify potential hazards like frozen lakes, fallen trees, rocks, and other objects hidden beneath the snow.

2. Maximize visibility.

Heavy snowfall can greatly decrease visibility, especially at night. Wear glasses or goggles and make sure that your headlights are functioning. Remember that the headlights of other riders can be blinding, so always drive cautiously at night.

3. Dress to stay warm and dry.

A helmet, mask, jacket, gloves, boots and tall socks are necessary for spending hours outside. Be strategic and find gear that is water and wind proof, and avoid cotton and other clothing materials that retain moisture.

4. Carry a repair kit and other gear.

Be prepared for the unexpected with a kit that contains spark plugs, tow rope and other tools. A cell phone and first aid kit are also essential, and a flashlight, map, and extra pairs of socks and gloves may come in handy.

5. Go out with other riders.

Don't be a lone wolf. You're always safer sharing the experience with other experienced riders. Before heading out, it's always important to let friends or family know where you are going, how long you expect to be out, and anything else you're planning.

Don't let carelessness and unpreparedness ruin your fun this winter. Putting these tips into practice will help you to be prepared, prevent accidents, and make the most of your snowmobiling experience!