

NEWS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Insure U Helps Small Business Owners Understand Insurance Options

(NAPSA)—Small businesses are a major engine of the U.S. economy. To protect the assets and employees of these vital companies, their owners need to stay abreast of potential business risks and understand insurance options available to address them.

Information, tips and considerations about small business insurance are available from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), a voluntary organization of state insurance regulatory officials.

The NAIC's Insure U for Small Business Web site, www.InsureUonline.org/smallbusiness, covers six categories of insurance: workers' compensation; business property and liability; commercial auto; group health and disability; group life and key person life; and home-based business.

Small Business Tips:

- **Workers' Compensation Insurance, required by most states, protects a business owner from claims by employees who experience a work-related injury or illness.** To minimize risk in the workplace, keep office space in good physical condition. Maintain carpeting and railings on stairs. Make sure telephone and computer wiring is in good working condition and does not create any hazards.

- **Business Property Insurance protects an owner from damages and losses to a business' physical space or equipment.** Don't rely on your landlord to provide coverage for your business property if you lease your office or building. The building's insurance will typically cover only the basic structure and common areas.

- **Commercial Auto Insurance typically has higher liability limits than personal auto insurance.** If you are relying on



your personal auto insurance or personal umbrella liability policy to provide you with protection for your company's use of vehicles, look closely at the provisions, as business-related liability may be excluded.

- **Group Health Insurance:** Before purchasing a group health insurance policy, survey your employees to find out what kind of coverage is particularly important to them. Contact your state insurance department to see whether there are any special programs designed to assist small business owners in providing health insurance.

- **Key Person Life Insurance:** Many small firms purchase Key Person life insurance to provide financial protection in the event a vital employee dies. The payout can help the company continue operations until a new individual is hired, or buy out the key person's heirs if ownership rights are involved.

- **Home-Based Business Insurance:** Don't assume your homeowners or renters insurance policy will cover your home-based business. Most homeowners insurance policies significantly limit coverage of business property and may totally exclude business-related liability.

For more information, visit www.InsureUonline.org/smallbusiness.