



Mississippi Insurance Department: "Insurance Matters" September 2013

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Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney with NFIP Director David Miller (center) and Bill Brown of MEMA (left) discuss coming changes to the NFIP as a result of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, at Congressman Steven Palazzo's coastal forum.



September: Campus Fire Safety Month

State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney is urging state educators to continue teaching the state's young adults about fire-safe behavior to ensure they remain safe during their college years and beyond as part of the annual nationwide observance of September as Campus Fire Safety Month.

"Student housing fires in Mississippi and other states have, over the years, tragically cut short the lives of promising young people," Chaney said.

Since 2000, 162 people have died in campus-related fires across the nation with over 85% of them occurring in off-campus occupancies, as identified by Campus Firewatch. The number of fire deaths had been decreasing from a high of 20 fatalities in the 2006-2007 academic year; the 2012-2013 academic year saw 7 deaths.

"Learning and practicing fire safety measures now will teach them how to protect themselves from fire while at school, and later they will carry these messages with them when they grow older and move away from home."

The five most common factors in campus related fatal fires since 2000 are:

- **Missing or disabled smoke alarms**
- **Careless disposal of smoking materials**
- **Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption**
- **Lack of automatic fire sprinklers in off-campus housing**

Students will receive fire safety messages on school days via Twitter [@msfiresafe](#) and on [@MSInsuranceDept](#). The Mississippi State Fire Marshal can also be found on Facebook. For more information on Campus Fire Safety Month, contact the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office at 1-888-648-0877.

The [Minger Foundation](#) has created an [RA Guide to Teaching Fire Safety](#), series of [posters](#), and [videos](#) that can be used in helping to teach fire safety to the students in your dorms.

Did You Know?

SEPTEMBER is...

LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Singer Amy Grant has teamed with the [National Association of Insurance Commissioners \(NAIC\)](#) to help consumers get smart about insurance so they can have peace of mind while navigating life's inevitable twists. http://www.insureuonline.org/amy_grant.htm

Watch a special PSA by Grant Here - [Watch Amy Grant's new PSA for the NAIC.](#)

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Are You and Your Family **READY** if Disaster Strikes?

BE PREPARED.

Visit ready.gov for information, tips, and notifications



R E M I N D E R



HURRICANE SEASON 2013

BE SAFE. BE PROTECTED. BE PREPARED.

Remember to take proactive steps to protect your property from loss. The Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) offers tips and advance storm preparations for what has been forecast as a very active Hurricane Season. Below are helpful links on storm preparation information and tips.





Healthcare FAQ's

Mississippi Pursues State-Based SHOP Marketplace Healthcare Options

Jackson - On August 28, 2013, the United States Department of Health and Human Services issued regulations that will now allow states to apply to operate a state-based free market Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) marketplace.

“Mississippi is in a position to begin operation of a free market SHOP marketplace in the first quarter of 2014,” Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney said.

Chaney stressed that a SHOP marketplace is not an ObamaCare state exchange for subsidized beneficiaries and does not expand Medicaid. He also noted that the Mississippi State Senate passed a bill to create such a marketplace before ObamaCare was proposed.

Mississippi has applied to operate a SHOP marketplace. The Mississippi Insurance Department recognizes the importance of providing small business owners access to alternative health care options for their employees and is committed to facilitating the establishment of a state-based Small Business Health Options Program SHOP-only Marketplace.

“The state has had a developed plan ready since early 2013 and has been waiting for Federal approval of our request to operate the free market approach of SHOP exchanges. I am pleased that Federal authorization was granted by *CCIIO August 28th, 2013 for all states to apply to operate a state based free market SHOP,” Chaney said.

* CCIIO-The Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight within HHS

A SHOP Marketplace is designed to assist employers and facilitate enrollment of employees into qualified health plans (QHPs). Small employers, primarily those with fewer than fifty (50) eligible employees, will be able to apply and enroll online in an array of QHPs. The SHOP Marketplace will offer a flexible and easy-to-

understand plan selection process for both employers and employees, and will include services for premium billing and payment processing, among others. ■



Q: What consumer questions can the Federal Call Center address before open enrollment? How will that change after October 1, 2013?

A: From now until the beginning of open enrollment, October 1, 2013, the Federal call center can help consumers with general health insurance questions like, “What is a premium?” or “What do insurance plans cover?” It can also answer Marketplace questions like, “When can I enroll in a health plan?” or “How will I know what plans are available where I live?” Representatives can provide consumers with information on documentation for enrollment and on who can help them complete the application.

During open enrollment, October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, the Federal call center will help consumers complete enrollment applications, determine public program or private plan eligibility, compare plans, determine tax credits or premium support eligibility, and facilitate plan enrollment. Consumers may also contact the Federal call center with complaints.

The Federal Call Center is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week, and may be reached at [1-800-318-2596](tel:1-800-318-2596).

Q: What is a SHOP Marketplace?

A: A SHOP Marketplace is designed to assist employers and facilitate enrollment of employees into qualified health plans (QHPs). Small employers, primarily those with fewer than fifty (50) eligible employees, will be able to apply and enroll online in an array of QHPs. The SHOP Marketplace will offer a flexible and easy-to-understand plan selection process for both employers and employees, and will include services for premium billing and payment processing, among others.

For more information about a SHOP, visit:





CLAIMS ACTIVITY REPORT - AUGUST 2013

Month of August 2013		Year-To-Date	
	# Claims Handled	# Claims Handled	Claims payments or premium refunds secured
Property and Casualty Insurance	654	5,931	\$117,455.26
Accident & Health (Includes A&H, PPACA, Medicare, and Misc.)	502	3,977	\$64,006.88
Life Insurance (Includes Life, Burial, and Misc.)	291	2,419	\$189,431.92
Totals:	1,447	12,327	\$370,894.06

Commissioner's Corner



Mike Chaney

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal

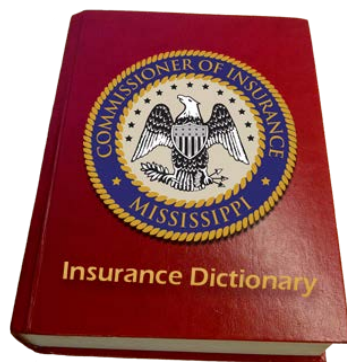


Q: How much does the presence of a working smoke alarm help my chance of survival?

A: According to the National Fire Protection Association, two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

*** If you do not have a smoke alarm, contact your local fire department and ask if they have a free smoke alarm program.**

Have an insurance consumer question for Commissioner Chaney? Email your question to info@mid.ms.gov and you might be featured in our next newsletter!



Insurance Terms of the Month:

Life and Health Guarantee Association - An organization that operates under the supervision of a state insurance commissioner to protect policy owners, insured's, beneficiaries, and specified others against losses that result from the financial impairment or insolvency of a life insurer that operates in the state.

Mortality Tables - Charts that show the death rates an insurer may reasonably anticipate among a particular group of insured lives at certain ages.

Permanent Life Insurance - Life insurance that provides coverage throughout the insured's lifetime and also provides a savings element.

REGULATOR 101

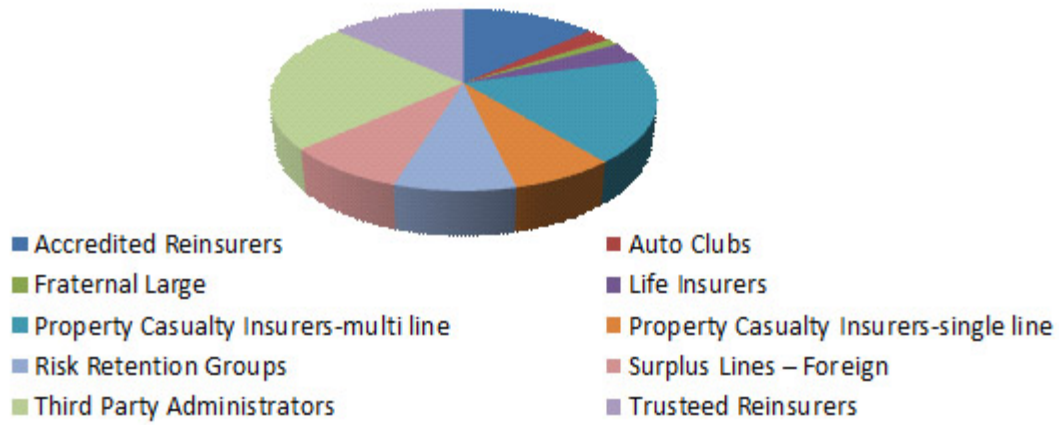


The **FINANCIAL AND MARKET REGULATION DIVISION** performs analysis, reviews, desk audits, and on-site examinations to monitor companies' compliance with Mississippi insurance laws. It is also responsible for maintaining the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' accreditation standards. The division is responsible for assisting the Commissioner with companies that are in administrative supervision, rehabilitation, or liquidation.

In 2012:

- Monitored the solvency of 2,239 companies with \$10.8 billion premiums written in Mississippi.
- Collected \$1.36 million in filing fees.
- Analyzed 447 domestic company filings.
- Commenced 8 examinations.
- Managed \$37.19 million in pledged securities.
- Participated in 9 multi-state collaborative actions.
- Assessed the financial condition and operations of 82 entities applying for a license to operate in Mississippi.
- Maintained the department's accreditation status by meeting all 48 of the legal, financial, and organizational accreditation standards.
- Monitored the company operations of 603 domestic and foreign companies.

2012 Admissions Activity



NOTE: There were no Health Maintenance Organization, Legal Expense or Title Insurer admissions in 2012. Risk Purchasing Groups are no longer reviewed by this Division.



On the first stop of a coast flood insurance tour hosted by Congressman Steven Palazzo, Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney spoke to Bay St. Louis homeowner Diane Sager regarding her concerns about new NFIP flood maps.

**The Mississippi Insurance Department has no jurisdiction over the National Flood Insurance Program but is watching developments closely.*



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Twitter



Website



YouTube

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