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[WWW.BENZASSOCIATES.COM](http://WWW.BENZASSOCIATES.COM)

To be on the safe side for all our employees, we are still working from home. We would like to thank all of our customers for their patience during these trying times. Please check our website [www.benzassociates.com](http://www.benzassociates.com) or our Facebook page for updated information as to when we will reopen the office and our guidelines.

**Exciting news...** We now have the ability to write Commercial, Auto, Condo and Flood insurance in Florida. We can try to bundle your insurance for optimum savings and keep your insurance with one agency!

#### **Woodstove & fireplace safety tips:**

- First, make sure your stove and chimney have been thoroughly checked and cleaned by a professional.
- Make sure you have a working smoke and carbon monoxide detector.
- Put ashes only in metal containers and do not leave them in the house. Even if you think they are cold, put them in a fire-proof container and take them outside, away from the house for storage.
- Keep the air intakes open on stove and be sure your fireplace has plenty of ventilation.
- Store a fire extinguisher within easy reach and make sure everyone knows how to use it.



**Parents and children purchasing a vehicle together** – Before purchasing a vehicle where a parent and a child are both listed, please call the office to discuss your insurance options. Each company is different and we need to know exactly how it is going to be insured, registered, and titled.

Volume 26

**What in the world is Smishing?** The rise in text messaging has attracted scammers looking to profit. With this we arrive at a funny new word in the cybersecurity lexicon, “smishing.”

SMS + Phishing = Smishing

Smishing is the act of using text messages to trick individuals into divulging sensitive information, visiting a risky site, or downloading a malicious app onto a smartphone. These harmless looking messages might ask you to confirm banking details, verify account information, or subscribe to an email newsletter via a link delivered by SMS (a text messaging service). With more businesses working remotely, employees are using their phones more for business and cyber criminals target mobile devices to access company data.

How to prevent Smishing:

- Check for spelling errors and grammar mistakes.
- Visit the sender’s website itself rather than providing information in the message.
- Verify the sender’s telephone address to make sure it matches that of the company it purports to belong to.

Never provide financial or payment information on anything other than the trusted website itself. Don’t click on links from unknown senders. Always type web addresses in a browser rather than clicking on the link. Install a mobile-compatible antivirus on your smart devices.

**We would like to congratulate**

Lisa Kellner who has been promoted to Vice President and Kristen VanWey who is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their loyalty & longevity have certainly attributed to the growth and success of the agency.

**For each of your referrals** that we quote, we offer a \$10 coupon to certain

restaurants in the Southtowns or you can still also get the \$5 Tim Horton's gift card. This is open to everyone and no purchase is necessary. Thank you for your continued support.  
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