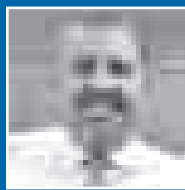


REST INSURED



by **JEFF GELINEAU**
 Vice President of United Agencies,
 The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner



'Totaled:' What Does It Mean?



"Dad, I've been in an accident."

It's the phone call that every parent dreads receiving, and it's the one that I received just the other day. Thankfully, neither my son nor the person he rear-ended were hurt.

The car, on the other hand ... not so good.

It has been determined that his 2008 Toyota Tacoma with 2,300 miles on it is totaled.

What happens when the insurance company totals a vehicle? A lot of people think that if the estimate for the repair exceeds 50 percent of the value of the vehicle, then the insurance company will declare it a total loss.

In reality, it is more a function of what the depreciated value of a vehicle is, and what the expected resale value is on that vehicle. After totaling a vehicle, the insurance company then owns the title on that vehicle. If the insurance company feels that they can resell the vehicle for a fairly high price, they might be willing to total the vehicle more quickly.

Consider this math: (All figures are made up.)

- A 2008 Toyota Tacoma has a depreciated value of \$18,000.
- Repairs are estimated at \$9,000 by your local Toyota dealer.
- The insurance company thinks that it can repair it in their own shop for \$6,000.
- A fully repaired 2008 Toyota Tacoma with a salvaged title will sell for \$17,000.
- The insurance company can pay out the \$18,000 to total the vehicle, spend \$6,000 to repair it, and recoup \$17,000 in the sale, for a total loss of \$7,000, thus saving \$2,000 over the estimated repairs.

So, even though the estimate is 50 percent of the value of the vehicle, they may total the vehicle, as it will cost them less.

This same math can work the other way. If the vehicle with the salvage title is not going to resell for very much, the insurance company has more interest in simply repairing it:

- A 2008 Toyota Tacoma has a depreciated value of \$18,000.
- Repairs are estimated at \$9,000 by your local Toyota dealer.
- The insurance company thinks that they can repair it in their own shop for \$6,000.
- A fully repaired 2008 Toyota Tacoma with a salvaged title will sell for \$12,000.
- If the insurance company were to pay out the \$18,000 to total the vehicle, then spend \$6,000 to repair it, and only recoup \$12,000 in the sale, their total loss would be \$12,000, \$3,000 more than the estimate to repair it.

So, even though the estimate is 50 percent of the value of the vehicle, they may simply pay to repair the vehicle, as that will cost them less.

Sound confusing? Of course it is! That is why adjusting a major claim takes so much time. The insurance company has an obligation to do right by the customer, but also to save as much money as possible.

When you buy an insurance policy, you agree to actual cash value, not Blue Book or market value. This means the cost of a new vehicle, less the depreciation on your vehicle. New cars are the most susceptible to depreci-

ation. The moment you drive that new car off the dealer's lot, you lose more than 20 percent of the value of your car. That's right: The \$40,000 car you just bought is now worth about \$32,000. That is why financial advisers often recommend buying late model used cars, and letting someone else suffer the hit that comes in that first year.

Some better insurance companies allow you to purchase agreed value or stated value on your auto insurance. With a policy like this, you and the insurance company agree in the beginning of the policy year what you think your vehicle is worth, and if anything happens to it they will pay you that amount.

It can take a long time to settle your claim. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Rental car reimbursement coverage on your policy usually is good for only 30 days. You might have as little as \$20 a day, or as much as \$50 a day, but usually it lasts for only 30 days. If the repairs or negotiations take more than a month, you will be paying for your rental car yourself.
- If you choose not to replace your car right away, or are in between cars, you don't have to keep the old car on your policy. Delete the vehicle from your policy after the insurance company has determined that it will be totaled. But if you don't have any other vehicles on your policy, keep your insurance policy in force. You can convert your policy to a non-owner's policy. This allows you to continue to be covered if you are driving someone else's car or a rental car, and you don't lose any discounts you are getting for continuous coverage.

If you have any problems with the insurance company, or would like assistance or advice with working with them, feel free to call any of our agents.

United Agencies is the Club's Partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Call our office today at (888) 801-5522. United Agencies Burbank. (CA License # 0252636.)

Check out the City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at: www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub

This Website lists the upcoming visits we'll be making to City Department meetings, where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

Have a question? Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at jgelineau@unitedagencies.com, and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.

Be safe and have fun!

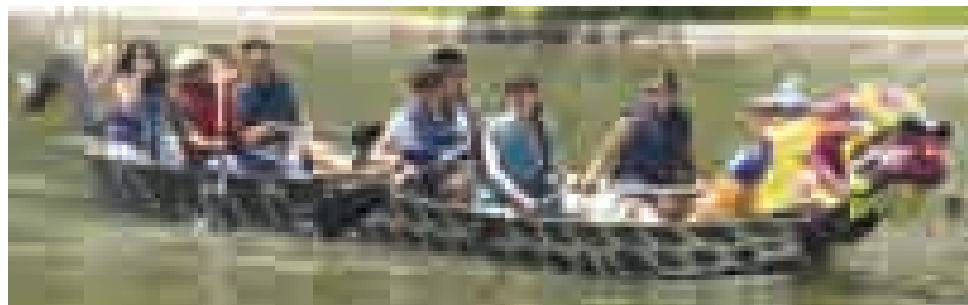
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 today at (888) 801-5522.**

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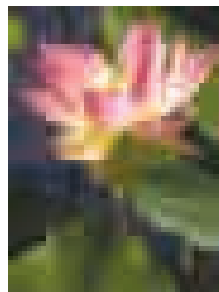
REC AND PARKS

Lotus Festival to Bloom

31st Lotus Festival, which celebrates Asian and Pacific Island cultures, takes place July 11-13.



Dragon boat rides and races are always exciting.



The annual Lotus Festival is timed to coincide with the blooming of the lotus plant.

The City's 31st annual Lotus Festival anticipates the annual blooming of the lotus plant with a celebration including music, art, crafts, food and ceremonies. The festival is scheduled for Friday, July 11, through Sunday, July 13.

The festival takes place at Echo Park Lake in Echo Park.

The festival develops, promotes and creates an atmosphere of understanding in which Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Southern California are brought together for one evening and two days of cultural sharing. The festival also seeks to preserve and enlighten the public with a sampling of distinctly different and unique Asian and Pacific Islander culture and traditions through displays, art, music, dance and food.

The Friday Night Jazz Series July 11 and Opening Ceremonies at noon on July 12 begin the celebration of the 31st Lotus Festival, which includes live music, dance and entertainment from a variety of performers representing many of the diverse countries of Asia and the Pacific Islands. This year, the Festival will highlight the people and cultures of Asia and the Pacific Islands. A fabulous fireworks display over Echo Park Lake will take place both Friday night and conclude the day's activities Saturday at 9 p.m. with the legendary Taiko Drummers playing in the background.

Asian and Pacific Islander personalities from the media and acting professions will act as emcees/hosts during this two-day event.

Artisans-at-work will be on hand to demonstrate their skills on the beautifully decorated Flower Island Pavilion. Their artwork illustrates their spirit, tradition and pride of the Asian and Pacific Islander handiwork. This includes: paper-cutting, hand painted scrolls, calligraphy, plant and flower expertise, fish, birds and other Asian artifacts and wares.

The Health Fair will feature educational lectures on holistic fitness. Other services to be provided include: free screenings, information and referrals.

The Community Services will feature a variety of organizations offering free information, assistance and referrals in areas of employment, social services, immigration, legal services, education, housing and translating.

31st Annual Lotus Festival

When: Friday, July 11, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.;
 Saturday, July 12, noon to 9 p.m.;
 Sunday, July 13, noon to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Echo Park Lake is on Park Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Echo Park Boulevard, just north of the Hollywood (101) and Pasadena (110) freeway junction, near Dodger Stadium.

The Art Show Exhibit will feature artwork with the "Lotus Flower" theme. The 2008 exhibit will be opening for viewing during Festival hours at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 850 Echo Park Ave., located across the street from the boathouse.

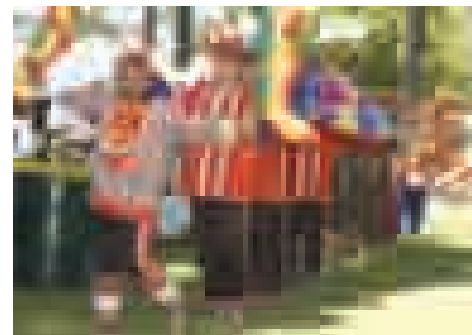
The International Boutiques will offer a variety of Asian and Pacific Islander items and gifts for sale including clothing, jewelry, artwork, hand-made crafts, incense, body oils and much more.

The Children's Courtyard will give children the opportunity to learn Asian and Pacific Islander arts and crafts, enjoy live music, stories, songs and dances.

The Queens and their Courts representing local communities will be in native dresses.

Dragon Boat Races are held both days with media, community service groups, political and business organizations, local colleges and universities, which will be competing for awards, while enjoying a day on the lake.

The food booth area will provide a variety of Asian and Pacific Islander cuisine that will feature enticing delicacies, and exotic beverages which are traditional to the Asian and Pacific Island Cultures.



Local Asian-Pacific Islander culture is part of the festival.



A parade with dragons is part of the Lotus Festival.