

been better. The internet has just added another route for comparison and most can find a better deal if they bother to do the work.

My concern now is for household rates. I can't remember the last time we saw a consistent increase in the rates for household risks. It's as if burglaries, fires, pipe bursts, subsidence, storms and so on all stopped in 1991 and we are now living in a claim-free nirvana from which we will never emerge. Can this be right?

Credit the building insurers who do seem to be acting, but the lost volume is being transferred to contents rate reductions. I appreciate that experience has been good, but for how long can it continue?


As I have said before, maybe ever-lower household rates are the only positive impact of global warming outside of more nights of barbecues and better tans, but I can't help think weather — and the extremes it has been demonstrating of late — is here to stay.


Kevin Sinclair, managing director, AA Insurance


POST MAGAZINE NEWS BAROMETER

Last week on its website, www.postonline.co.uk, Post posed the question below. The barometer shows the result. Check the website on Thursday for this week's News Barometer question.

Which side will triumph in the pleural plaques litigation?

CLAIMANTS? 

DEFENDANTS? 

UNDECIDED? 

Letters can be sent to: The Editor, Haymarket House, 28-29 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RX, by fax on: 020 7484 9988, or by e-mail to: jonathan.swift@incisivemedia.com

POST
MAGAZINE

Newsdesk: 020 7484 9876 SDN: 020 7925 2064 (Manned)
E-mail: postmag@incisivemedia.com
All staff e-mail: first.name.surname@incisivemedia.com
All telephone numbers preceded by 020 7484 (XXXX)

Editor: Jonathan Swift (9876)
Deputy Editor: Lynn Bousie (9928)
Supplements Editor: Stephanie Denton (9963)
News and Online Editor: Ralph Savage (9948)
Senior Reporter: Edward Vinokles (9935)
Reporter: Olivier C Laurent (9809)
Art Director: Nicky Brown
Chief Sub Editor: Rory McBride
Sub Editor: Marcel Reinard

Editor in Chief: Anthony Gould (9120)

Group Sales Manager: Post Magazine
Display & Post Events: Sajeda Merali (9965)



Subsidence Expo: a catalyst for debate

LAST week's Post's Subsidence Expo provided those within the industry a golden opportunity to air views and discuss the latest developments in subsidence claims management.

It was interesting to note that whilst certain practices, such as appointing national networks of repairers, are cited as being in the best interests of the homeowner, feedback from those attending the 'managing the supply chain relationships' workshop clearly demonstrate that those in this sector would not like to adopt this approach if it was their own claim.

Despite insurers' preferences to appoint national networks of repairers, it appears that most would prefer to appoint a local contractor. I believe there is still a way to go before we have 'joined up' sector thinking. Feedback suggests that the payment Health and safety compliance continue to be a key issue but responsibility seems to rest with employing repairers, not costs to this sector.

Investigations and excessive costs to this sector.

those involved at the top end of the claim chain. However, I'm pleased that the preference is to appoint contractors that are part of a trade organisation.

The Subsidence Expo discussions proved a valuable reminder in just how important communication is between all parties involved in the claims process and why we must continue to encourage discussion and debate. I am thankful therefore that we also have a platform to do this via the Subsidence Forum.

I would urge non-members to join so we can work proactively to share best practice and change perceptions. As chairman, I will be looking at how we can help the industry resolve some of these issues.

Rob Withers
Managing director,
Withersnel, chairman,
Subsidence Forum

Classified Advertising Fax: 020 7484 9992

Conferences and Events:

E-mail: conferences@incisivemedia.com

Synone Broadhurst, 4 on westmyle, leam

Account Manager: Thomas Call 020 7004 7520

Account Executive:

Geanna Capwell 020 7004 7572

Events Manager: Kerry Williams 020 7968 4538

Events Co-ordinator:

Lene Pedersen 020 7968 4540

Delegate Sales Executive:

Helen Gibbons 020 7968 4619

Conference Producer:

Clare Dickinson 020 7004 7469

Production Controller: Ross Harman (5581)

Group Production Manager:

Lorna Graham (9159) Fax: 020 7484 9991

Marketing Manager: Jo Osborne (9964)

Customer Services:

E-mail: customers@incisivemedia.com

Incisive Media plc, Haymarket House, 28-29

Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RX. Tel: 020 7484 9726

Overseas cheques should be drawn on London. Incisive

Financial Publishing Ltd does not accept responsibility for

loss or damage to unsolicited photographs, manuscripts or

other items. The cost of returning such materials must be paid by

the original sender.

For part of this publication may be reproduced, stored

in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by

any means without the prior written permission of the

publisher. Photocopying or other reproduction without the

publisher's permission is a breach of copyright and action

will be taken where this occurs.

Distilled by Inkwell Business Publishing Ltd

Tel: 020 7484 9700

MEMBER OF THE ADVERTISING BUREAU OF GREAT BRITAIN

ISSN 1365-0284 © Incisive Media Investments Ltd

3 year: UK £544, Europe (annual) £656, ROW

(annual) £129, US \$141, 2 year: UK £377, Europe

(annual) £442, ROW (annual) £709, US \$1,000

1 year: UK £210, Europe (annual) £242, ROW

(annual) £137, US \$670, 12 weeks: UK £10, 40

Europe (annual) £58, US \$107, ROW (annual) £99, 35

US \$162, 40. Subscriptions are payable in advance by

credit card. American Express, cheque or international



An incisive media publication