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## Insurance Council releases power surge information

The Insurance Council of Australia today provided consumers with useful insurance information in the event that their home or business is affected by power surges or power failures over the summer months.

“It is important for the policyholder to be aware of their level of home and contents or business insurance cover, in the event of a power surge or failure during the summer months,” said Insurance Council, Chief Executive, Kerrie Kelly.

“If loss of power occurs the Insurance Council encourages all policyholders to contact their insurer and power provider immediately.”

“If a power surge or failure is caused by an insurable event, such as a storm, home and contents policyholders can be covered for spoilt foodstuffs stored in a fridge or freezer. Policyholders need to check their policy details including; fixed claim limits for food, product and perishable goods spoiled; and any excess applicable to their home and contents policy.”

“It is important when making a claim to keep an inventory of the goods that have been spoilt, including names and brands - photographic evidence will also assist in the claims process.”

“In many cases power surges can be prevented by the use of surge protection units. It is advisable to use surge protection units, designed to minimise the effects of power surges, on all ‘big ticket’ items in the home including the fridge, television, stereo and computers. Relatively inexpensive to purchase, surge protection units can prevent thousands of dollars worth of damage to your possessions,” added Ms Kelly.

It is also important for business owners to be aware of their level of insurance cover and whether an event such as a power surge needs to be part of their risk mitigation plan.

Business interruption insurance provides cover for consequential loss of income and/or product or revenue resulting from the interruption of their business activities caused by damage covered under an insurable event – such as a power surge or failure.

“At this time of year it is a timely reminder of the importance of having adequate insurance to cover all your assets. Insurance Council data suggests that 1.8 million households in Australia do not have home or contents insurance, representing 23% of all households in the Australian community,” Ms Kelly said.

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