Provided by: **SCS Agency Inc**

Commercial Risk Advisor

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Increase in Road Fatalities Prompts Automated Safety Enforcement

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the first nine months of 2021 saw the highest number of traffic fatalities of any year since 2006, with an estimated 31,720 deaths caused by motor vehicle traffic crashes from January to September. In an effort to reduce traffic fatalities, the Department of Transportation has rolled out a new national strategy to promote better road design, lower speed limits and increase car safety regulations.

Under the new federal guidance, states can tap into billions of federal highway dollars for roadway safety programs, including automated traffic enforcement. The Federal Highway Administration says speed cameras can reduce the number of injury crashes by nearly 50%.

“Automated speed enforcement, if deployed equitably and applied appropriately to roads with the greatest risk of harm due to speeding, can provide significant safety benefits and save lives,” according to the Department of Transportation’s safety strategy.

Along with the implementation of speed cameras, employees should follow these safe driving practices to reduce traffic crashes:

- **Stay focused.** Avoid distractions, including adjusting the radio, talking on the phone, and eating or drinking.
- **Avoid aggressive driving.** Be patient and courteous to other drivers, and don’t take other drivers’ actions personally.
- **Plan ahead.** Drivers can reduce stress behind the wheel by planning their route ahead of time, allowing plenty of travel time and avoiding crowded roadways and busy driving times.

Increased safety regulations can help keep employees safe on the road while minimizing employer liability. For more information, contact us today.

SCS AGENCY INSURANCE

How Insurers Are Using the Internet of Things

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to the interconnected network embedded in devices, enabling them to send and receive data. By 2025, there will be 41 billion connected devices. Insurers can take a proactive, rather than reactive, approach to risk by leveraging IoT data. Instead of responding to issues or incidents after the fact, teams can now predict the occurrence of events.

Insurers are increasingly utilizing IoT to identify property losses sooner. One way they're doing so is by deploying leak censors at commercial, institutional and residential properties to stop water leakage almost before it starts. Chubb, known as the world's largest publicly traded property insurance company, has installed hockey-puck-sized sensors in more than 300 Chubb-insured buildings to detect and minimize water damage. Two years into its sensor strategy, the company has concluded that the wireless devices have prevented millions in property losses.

The following are benefits of embracing IoT as a standard feature of insurance policies:

- **Optimized risk assessment and prevention**—IoT devices can alert the insurance company and their customers to any irregularities, such as fires, water leakage, and heat and gas leaks. If insurers can identify issues before they happen, they can prevent costly—perhaps even fatal—events from occurring.
- **Enhanced cost management**—Insurers can analyze IoT data to optimize risk prediction to lower the number of claims and reduce an organization's costs. By leveraging IoT to introduce usage-based pricing models, monetize data insights and improve customer interactions, insurers may see better business outcomes.
- **Improved customer experience**—Insurers can use IoT data to identify gaps in their offerings and customize products and coverage solutions for different customer segments. IoT can also streamline processes, such as sales and claims, to provide a better user experience for customers.

IoT devices are becoming increasingly cost-effective for insurance companies and their customers, and their application has the potential to benefit all parties. For more information, contact us today.