

The Importance of Uninsured & Underinsured Motorist Coverage

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In the construction industry, driving is often part of the job. Whether traveling between job sites, transporting materials, or heading to client meetings, every mile on the road increases the risk of an accident, and with the number of uninsured and underinsured

drivers in Nebraska, even a minor crash can have serious financial consequences.

When someone is injured in a crash that occurs during the course of employment, workers' compensation can provide important protection, covering medical treatment and partial wage replacement regardless of fault. However, those benefits have limits. Nebraska's workers' compensation system does not cover pain and suffering, and wage benefits are capped by statute. For higher earners or those who suffer long-term injuries, the financial gap can be significant.

That's where uninsured and underinsured motorist (UM/UIM) coverage comes in. This coverage is outlined in your automobile insurance policy, and provides additional protection when an at-fault driver has little or no insurance. In some cases, employees injured while driving for work may be able to access both workers' compensation and UM/UIM benefits, depending on who owns the vehicle and how the policies are written. Proper coordination of those benefits and understanding each carrier's subrogation rights under Nebraska law ensures the injured worker receives the full recovery they deserve.

Even outside of work, UM/UIM coverage is one of the most important and affordable forms of personal protection a driver can carry. Nebraska law requires

every auto policy to include UM/UIM coverage of at least \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident, but those minimums haven't kept pace with the rising cost of medical care and vehicle repair. A single emergency room visit or surgery can easily exceed policy limits, leaving injured drivers responsible for large unpaid bills. And in many cases, an at-fault driver's insurance policy is the only meaningful asset available for recovery, which makes carrying adequate UM/UIM coverage absolutely critical.

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Employers can play a valuable role in promoting financial wellness by encouraging their teams to review their personal insurance policies. Employees should speak with their personal insurance agents about increasing UM/UIM limits (to \$250,000, \$500,000, or more), which can add meaningful protection for only a modest increase in premiums.

One accident can change a person's life and a family's future. Taking steps now to review your insurance coverage can make all the difference if you are seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident, whether on or off the job. Adequate UM/UIM coverage today can prevent enormous financial strain tomorrow and provide peace of mind when it's needed most.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Audrey Svane at (402) 437-8528 or asvane@woodsaitken.com. Learn more about Woods Aitken's [Personal Injury Practice Group](#) and [subscribe](#) to our E-Briefs for the latest news, tips, and updates, on a range of legal services.



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