Another Reason for Insurance Rates Again. TECHNOLOGY and

Another Reason to saves lives and injuries.

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STATE FARM, ALLSTATE, and GEICO have all increased auto insurance costs in Illinois as a result of the extra expense of repairing cars packed with technology.

No longer is a car's front bumper just a cover for the radiator.

A modern car's front bumper might contain parking sensors, a radar sensor for the cruise control, a camera that displays images on the interior screen, and any number of other gadgets and sensors linked on the on-board safety systems. Not to mention that the bumper itself is a complex piece of the car's crash structure.

With so much technology packed into a relatively vulnerable area of a car, the cost of repairing even minor damage has skyrocketed. And car owners in Illinois are paying the price.

"We're seeing newer, more sophisticated models costing much more to repair, especially with some of the more advanced safety features," said Allstate spokeswoman Meghan Sporleder.

However, State Farm and Allstate agree that new safety tech is worth the extra cost. Sporleder added: "We absolutely support technology that saves lives and minimizes injures. But that comes at an increased cost."

From Rankin Insurance Agency Lois, Jessica, and Patty