



# COMMERCIAL/AGRICULTURE INSURANCE FOR WILDFIRES

**If you have insurance questions or complaints, call or visit us online  
888-877-4894 (toll-free) or [dfr.oregon.gov](http://dfr.oregon.gov).**

Oregon Division of Financial Regulation

Your property does not have to burn up to be eligible for coverage under your business insurance policy. Smoke damage, loss of income, or loss of use of benefits may be covered under your business insurance policy.

## **Fire and smoke damage**

If you have fire or smoke damage to your property, do these things to ensure a smoother claims experience:

- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible
- Protect your property from further damage (keep receipts for these costs)
- Photographs or videotape the damage
- Do not discard damaged property or remove damaged structures until the claims adjuster has viewed it
- Do not make permanent repairs or begin cleaning items until your insurer inspects the damage
- Make a detailed list of damaged business property, including brand names, models, and ages of items
- Seek out an alternate location to temporarily operate from while the repair or cleaning takes place

While discussing your claim, an adjuster may use terms such as replacement cost and actual cash value. Replacement cost coverage pays to repair or replace your building and business personal property with materials of “like kind and quality” at current prices. Actual cash value is the replacement cost of an item, minus depreciation.

If the adjuster determines your policy covers the loss, an estimate will be written for the repairs. The insurer will value business property losses, as well. Any initial payment is usually first made at the actual cash value amount. If you have replacement cost insurance, the depreciation that is withheld can be recovered once the repairs, rebuilding, or replacement of business property transpires. Save receipts for repair or rebuild costs and business property replacements. These are essential to being paid this withheld amount.

## **Loss of use, business interruption insurance**

If your business was damaged or inaccessible because of evacuation orders or fire, you may be able to recover your lost income. Check with your agent or insurance company to verify that you have purchased business interruption insurance.

Business Interruption Insurance covers business expenses to temporarily relocate or to recover any lost business income as a result of the fire. This includes payroll for your employees.

These types of claims usually require previous business records to be provided as they are used in the calculations of your benefits.

## **Landslides and flooding**

Flooding is common after a wildfire. Drainage channels, creeks, and rivers can clog with debris, resulting in local flooding. Even if you have never been at risk of flood in the past, you may now be at risk.

Most homeowner, agricultural, or business insurance policies do not cover flood damage. However, you can buy flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). To find an agent who can sell you flood insurance, call NFIP at 888-379-9531 (toll-free).

Flood insurance policies generally do not take effect until 30 days after purchase. However, if the flood originates on federal forest land, the 30-day period may be waived. If you are considering buying a flood plan, do not delay.

**Note: The NFIP policy defines a flood as a general and temporary condition where two or more acres of normally dry land or two or more properties are inundated by water or mudflow.**

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