



Property Casualty Insurers
Association of America

Advocacy. Leadership. Results.



INSURANCE
INFORMATION
INSTITUTE

Insurance: A Crucial Financial Safety Net

- Insurance drives economic growth by expediting recovery for policyholders.
- As financial first responders, property/casualty insurers paid \$414.6 billion in claims during 2017.
- California wildfire claims are estimated at \$12 billion for 2017.
- It is too early to estimate 2018 wildfire costs.
- Homeowners have options – rebuild or buy new.

How the Claims Process Works – Contact your agent or company to find out:

- What's covered under your homeowners policy – Fire is a covered loss
- How to get ALE and temporary housing – Keep receipts
- Coverage for property, contents, outbuildings and loss of use (Coverage A,B,C,D)
- A timeline for the claims process
- How to get estimates for rebuilding

Prepare for the adjuster's visit:

- Write down questions about the claims process
- Give the adjuster pictures of your home and contents, or home inventory lists
- Ask for resources that will help with the home inventory process
- Get the adjuster's contact information for follow-up questions

How Settlement is Determined:

- Replacement cost or actual cash value
- Extended replacement costs
- Building code upgrade
- Temporary living expenses - ALE

How to Select a Contractor

- Get written, detailed bids from licensed contractors
- Check references and licenses with the California Contractors State License Board
- Don't feel pressured to sign a contract
- Do NOT pay up front. Pay as work is completed and inspected
- Use your insurer as resource to review bids

What to Expect

- Your mortgage will still need to be paid
- You have two years to rebuild – extensions are available
- Insurers will not non-renew the year following the loss
- Timeline for payments

TIP 1:

Video or photograph your electronics, appliances and workout equipment. Note the number of TVs, computers/tablets.

Document your possessions before

TIP 2:

Video or photograph contents of drawers and closets.

TIP 4:

Describe your home's contents in video. Include price paid, purchase year and location.

TIP 3:

Save receipts for major purchases. Store key documents in fire-proof case. Keep home inventory video offsite or in the cloud.

TIP 5:

Remember to video/photograph what is in your garage.

Use your smartphone or video camera to document your belongings. Keep inventory video/photos outside home or in cloud.

Maintain insurance

If your home is paid off, make sure to maintain homeowners insurance. Don't be caught after a fire with no way to rebuild your home.

Check with loved ones that have retired and paid off their mortgage to make sure they continue to carry homeowners insurance.



PREPARE PROPERTY AND FINANCES FOR **WILDFIRES**

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Questions & Answers

Keep in Touch with **I.I.I.** & PCI

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