

Insurers Agree to Extend Rebuild Timelines for Wildfire Victims

Several insurance companies have agreed to extend rebuild timelines to at least two years from the date of loss for people who lost their home in the 2020 Labor Day wildfire disaster.

Background

Many homeowners insurance policies place restrictions on the amount of time a policyholder has to rebuild their home and replace contents after suffering a total loss. These restrictions typically range from one to three years after the loss occurs. Some homeowners policies also require policyholders to rebuild at the address listed on the declarations page.

The 2020 Labor Day wildfire disaster has been one of the most destructive in Oregon's history. The breadth of the fires led to Gov. Kate Brown declaring a statewide state of emergency and resulted in widespread loss of life and property.

The ability to rebuild after a catastrophic event is often constrained by the need to remediate health and safety hazards and a surge in demand for construction resources. Under these conditions, it may not be possible for people to rebuild under typical timelines provided in their insurance policies. In addition, it would drive up costs if all victims of the fires attempted to rebuild in a short amount of time.

In some instances, policyholders may wish to rebuild in a different location. This can allow people who have lost their homes to recover faster and may relieve demand for resources in areas that suffered widespread losses.

Rebuild timelines extended to two years

The following insurance companies have agreed to provide at least two years from the date of loss to rebuild a home and replace contents after a policyholder suffers a total loss due to the 2020 Labor Day wildfire disaster. Some insurance policies provide two or more years to rebuild. Contact your agent or insurance company for more details.

Insurers have also agreed to grant additional extension(s) for good cause on a case by case basis. For extensions beyond two years and the time specified in a homeowner's insurance contract, insurers may ask for documentation supporting an intent to rebuild, such as a contract for reconstruction that identifies scope and anticipated timeframe to rebuild.

These companies have also agreed to waive restrictions on where a policyholder may rebuild. In most policies, the benefit amount is based on the cost to rebuild at the address stated on

the policy and may not include any increased cost associated with rebuilding in a new location.

This agreement does not extend the amount of additional living expense benefits available under a policy, nor does it alter any other terms of the policy contract.

Allstate

American Family CONNECT Property and Casualty Insurance Company

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. (AFMICS)

American Family Insurance Company (AFIC)

Austin Mutual Insurance Company

CSAA General Insurance Group, a AAA Insurer

Grange Insurance Association

Homesite Insurance Company of the Midwest

Liberty Mutual

Nationwide

NGM Insurance Company

Oregon Mutual Insurance Company

PEMCO Mutual Insurance Company

QBE

Safeco

Sublimity Insurance Company

United Heritage Property & Casualty Company

USAA

Western Protectors Insurance

This list is current as of Dec. 4, 2020 and will be updated if additional insurance companies agree to provide the relief outlined above. If your insurance company is not listed above, contact your agent or insurance company for information on rebuild restrictions in your policy and any accommodations the company may provide.