

# Insurance During Wildfires

During major wildfires, insurance companies may initiate temporary limitations on the sale of new policies in areas under imminent threat.

Consumers who want to change their coverage levels during a wildfire may face difficulties. **However, renewals of existing policies will continue to take place, regardless of the wildfire threat.**

Many policies include a 'Declaration of Emergency Endorsement', which extends the expiration date of policies when an emergency is declared by government, and ensures that the existing policy stays in force until an emergency order is terminated.

It's important to remember that the purpose of insurance is to protect you from unforeseen events. It is important to have coverage year round, and not wait for wildfires to occur before trying to secure insurance protection for your home and property.

Some examples of the limitations/restrictions that may be put in place for areas facing a threat from wildfire include:

- New policies
- Deductible changes
- Alterations to insured limits
- Major changes to existing policies

Since these restrictions are temporary, they do ease as the threat decreases.

## Does a Provincial State of Emergency impact everyone's ability to obtain a new insurance policy?

No. If a "State of Emergency" is declared by the province, only the areas that are under imminent threat are commonly subject to temporary restrictions or limitations on the sale of new coverage.

### If you are considering, or are in the process of buying, a new home in an area currently deemed at risk from wildfires:

- ▶ Consider adding a condition 'subject to property insurance' clause in the offer
- ▶ See if you can delay the possession date, until the threat passes and coverage can be placed on the policy
- ▶ Shop around. Insurers have different limitations/ restrictions for properties in threatened areas
- ▶ Ask your broker or agent what options may be available to secure insurance for the home
- ▶ Ask if you can add the new home onto your existing policy, instead of trying to secure a new insurance policy with a different provider.

## More insurance questions?

Call your insurance representative, visit [ibc.ca/bc](http://ibc.ca/bc) or contact IBC at **1-844-2ask-IBC** (1-844-227-5422) or [AskIBCWest@ibc.ca](mailto:AskIBCWest@ibc.ca)  
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