

BEEN IMPACTED BY A **WILDFIRE**—

WHAT'S NEXT?



The immediate aftermath of a wildfire can be overwhelming and knowing where to turn is difficult. **Atlas Insurance Agency, Inc. is here to help.** The following guidance outlines some need-to-know information to help you navigate recovery.

Insurance Tips

- Contact your insurance provider immediately to begin the claims process. Ask what to expect and note any filing deadlines or required documentation.
 - Ask your insurer about temporary accommodation and cash advances for living expenses. Maintain a record of expenses incurred (e.g., hotel bills and pet boarding) and keep receipts.
 - Itemize damaged possessions, remembering those in garages, vehicles and backyards. Estimate each item's original and replacement costs and take photos where possible. Avoid discarding items until an insurance representative has assessed them for damages, unless they're hazardous.
 - Meet with your loss adjuster to discuss the next steps.
- Disconnect and check all household appliances for damage before use.
 - Wear protective clothing, goggles and a respirator when cleaning to limit ash exposure.

Additional Recovery Tips

- Establish a PO Box for incoming mail to keep up to date with essential communications.
- Contact utility companies (e.g., electric, gas, TV subscriptions) to freeze or cancel their services.

Disaster Assistance Recovery Resources

- American Red Cross: 1-800-733-2767 or <https://www.redcross.org/find-your-local-chapter.html>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): 1-800-621-3362 or <https://www.fema.gov/>
- The Salvation Army: 1-800-725-2769 or <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>
- Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 or <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/helplines/disaster-distress-helpline>

Personal Safety Guidance

- Don't return home until the authorities deem it safe to do so.
- Inspect surroundings cautiously; watch out for hot ash, smoldering debris and live embers.
- Check for loose or damaged gas lines or electric wires. Swiftly report any concerns to your utility provider.

Knowing where to go for help and what to tackle first can be challenging in the aftermath of a wildfire. Atlas Insurance Agency, Inc. can guide you through recovery actions, streamline the insurance process, and help you and your family regain some normalcy. Contact us today to find out more.