

INSURANCE AND WILDFIRES

What you need to know if you live in an area threatened by **wildfires**.



Does your home insurance cover wildfires?

Home insurance policies cover property damage resulting directly from a fire and damage caused by the means to extinguish the fire. The contract also includes coverage for fallen trees up to a maximum of \$250 per tree, shrub or plant.*



Is it possible to purchase a home insurance policy or increase coverage?

People living in areas directly exposed to imminent danger who have no insurance may find it hard to obtain it. The same goes for people who may want to change their coverage.

It's important to remember that the purpose of insurance is to protect you against the unexpected. We recommend you purchase insurance or maintain suitable coverage at all times rather than waiting for a loss—like a wildfire—to occur.

*The payment cannot exceed 5% of the insurance coverage amount.

During **major wildfires**, insurance companies may impose temporary restrictions on insurance products in areas under imminent danger.



Have you received an evacuation order from the authorities, or are you unable to access your home?

Should the authorities prohibit access to your home or issue an evacuation order, you may, as a policyholder, be entitled to reimbursement of additional living expenses for a maximum period of 14 days. Also, in the event of damage to your home, these living expenses, including relocation costs, are covered for the period of time required to repair the damage, depending on the amount of coverage provided for in the contract.



What does an auto insurance contract cover?

Auto insurance covers fire damage to vehicles, as long as one of the following optional coverage has been purchased: All perils (Coverage 1), Coverage for Perils other than Collision or Upset (Coverage 3) and Specified perils (Coverage 4). Most auto insurance contracts include this coverage.



Given the current situation, will insurance companies renew insurance contracts?

Existing policies will keep being renewed despite the threat of wildfires.

Are you considering or are in the process of buying a house in an area under imminent wildfire threat? **HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:**

1. Add an "offer conditional on my ability to be insured" clause to your promise to purchase.
2. Consider delaying the date of taking possession until the wildfire threat ends and you can add insurance coverage.
3. Shop around to find insurers that offer options for properties located in at-risk areas.
4. Consult your real estate broker or agent about the insurance options available for your home.
5. Check whether it's possible to add the new house to your existing insurance policy, rather than obtaining a new policy from another insurer.

IBC IS THERE TO INFORM AND SUPPORT YOU

If your insurer modifies or cancels your policy, the Insurance Bureau of Canada's Information Centre can assist you.

Contact the Information Centre at **514-288-4321** or **1-877-288-4321**.

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