



INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
State of Oklahoma

BULLETIN NO. PC 2013-06

**TO: ALL PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURERS
ALL PROPERTY & CASUALTY PRODUCERS**

FROM: JOHN D. DOAK, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

**RE: Nonrenewal of Policies While Weather
Related Claims Remain Open**

DATE: June 12, 2013

As a result of the immense storm damage inflicted upon Oklahoma recently, thousands of insureds have filed property claims with their insurance companies. Insurers are now reassessing risks and issuing nonrenewal notices to many of their policyholders. In many instances, repairs to the property cannot be completed prior to the date of the policy's expiration due to the backlog of work that contractors and repair shops are currently experiencing. This results in open and pending claims which prevent the insured from obtaining replacement coverage.

In the best interests of the Oklahomans who have suffered catastrophic damage, the Insurance Commissioner strongly advises insurers to retain insureds on their current policies for a reasonable amount of time, to include no fewer than sixty (60) days following the completion of repairs. This will provide sufficient time for insureds to have the necessary repairs made to their property and to obtain coverage from another insurer.

Insurers are reminded that pursuant to OAC 365:15-7-26, homeowners' policies and any other personal residential insurance coverage shall not reflect a surcharge for weather related claims. Additionally, 36 O.S. § 3639.1 provides that insurers shall not cancel, refuse to renew or increase the premium of a homeowner's policy or any other personal residential insurance

coverage, which has been in effect more than forty-five (45) days, solely because the insured filed a first claim against the policy.

Questions applicable to this bulletin should be directed to Jason Johnston of the Consumer Assistance Division at Jason.Johnston@oid.ok.gov or Julie Meaders of the Legal Division at Julie.Meaders@oid.ok.gov

The Oklahoma Insurance Department encourages readers of this bulletin to periodically check the Department's web site at <http://www.ok.gov/oid/> for news and updates to bulletins and other relevant material.