



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 Homeowners' Policies While
Weather Related Claims Remain Open**

DATE: UPDATED June 19, 2013

As a result of the immense storm damage inflicted upon Oklahoma recently, thousands of homeowners have filed property claims with their insurance companies. Insurers are now reassessing risks and may be issuing nonrenewal notices to many of their policyholders. However, if an insurer is nonrenewing a policyholder whose home was damaged in the storms and the claim cannot be closed prior to the expiration of the existing policy, the policyholder may have difficulty in obtaining replacement coverage. In many instances, repairs to a home cannot be completed and the claim closed prior to the date of the policy's expiration due to the backlog of work that contractors are currently experiencing.

In the best interests of the Oklahomans who have suffered catastrophic damage, the Insurance Commissioner strongly advises insurers to retain insureds on their current homeowners' policies or any other personal residential insurance 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 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.