

Colorado Notice Regarding Wildfire Risk Mitigation Actions

Colorado requires insurance companies to make information available on the insurer's website regarding whether and how wildfire risk mitigation actions may impact the insurer's underwriting and rates for Homeowners insurance.

The companies in the Horace Mann Insurance Group use information from a Wildfire Risk Model in whole or in part to determine if properties are eligible for coverage under a Homeowners insurance policy. The companies use the FireLine Wildfire Risk Model which is obtained from Verisk Analytics, Inc. (Verisk), a company partnered with The Horace Mann Companies to assist in accounting for a property's risk of damage by wildfire.

Verisk assigns a FireLine score to each property. Wildfire is a unique peril because the property's environment influences the risk of loss. Verisk developed the FireLine Wildfire Risk Model specifically to analyze the potential for loss by wildfire, and insurers use that environmental information to appropriately underwrite applications for Homeowners insurance. Verisk analyzes the following three key elements that are also recognized by the National Fire Protection Association:

- Fuel, meaning grass, trees, or dense brush which may feed a wildfire. Verisk reviews the vegetation surrounding the property and calculates a weighted average of fuel amounts within a mile of the dwelling.
- Slope (the grade of the land), because steeper slopes increase the speed and intensity of a wildfire.
- Site Access, because roads with limited access can impede firefighting equipment and personnel which challenges their ability to reach a property for fire suppression activities.

Verisk also takes into account the historical wind data around the property, and the Special Hazard Interface Area (SHIA) indicator assigned to the property. SHIA identifies the likelihood that a risk outside, but immediately adjacent to, a high-fuel area will ignite because of its proximity to high heat and wind-borne burning embers.

Verisk uses advanced remote sensing, machine learning, and digital mapping technology to determine the impact of Fuel, Slope, and Site Access on the risk of wildfire at your property. A score of zero or 1 are the "best" available scores, meaning the risk of wildfire is negligible or low. A score of 2 or 3 means the risk of wildfire is moderate. Scores from 4 through 12 are for properties with high wildfire risk, and scores from 13 through 30 are for properties with extreme wildfire risk. The Horace Mann Companies generally will write Homeowners policies only on risks that have a negligible or low exposure to wildfire.

FireLine scores are not used to determine premiums for Homeowners policies. Also, the companies in the Horace Mann Insurance Group do not offer discounts for wildfire mitigation actions.