



A monthly newsletter brought to you by Idaho Department of Insurance – January 2024



Wildfire Risk Reinsurance and Mitigation Pool



No Surprises Act



State Rulemaking Activity



DOI Accreditation Reaffirmed by NAIC



2022 DOI Annual Report

Wildfire Risk Reinsurance and Mitigation Pool

In the [DOI December 2023 newsletter](#), Director Cameron referenced legislation for a Wildfire Risk Reinsurance and Mitigation Pool and board. Idaho gets lumped into the western mix of forest fires and held to the same concerns as California, Oregon, and Colorado who, like California, have FAIR plans. The state of Idaho, although one of the top 5 for numbers of forest fires, has very few structures burned and manages its vegetation better.

The purpose of the legislation—which is modeled after other state mitigation programs and Idaho’s High Risk Reinsurance Pool—is to address the challenges consumers are facing in obtaining affordable property coverage due to potential wildfire risk.

- The bill will not be government competing with private sector. In fact, it is the opposite. It is not an insurer of last-resort (sometimes called a “FAIR plan”) like some states have.
- Carriers in Idaho are contracting or withdrawing from certain areas due to the risk of wildfire leaving fewer carriers in the market, which causes market instability and consolidation risk.
- As DOI gathered information on what is needed to keep carriers in Idaho, a Wildfire Risk Reinsurance and Mitigation Pool and board arose as a solution. It creates two accounts:
 1. One account is to provide voluntary reinsurance for carriers who stay in the market in these challenged communities. A carrier would decide whether to cede the risk and pay a premium for the coverage.
 2. The second account is to provide grants to assist consumers in hardening their homes for the risk of fires.

There is no negative fiscal impact to the state or any local units of government. There is a positive impact to the economy if rates are stabilized and coverage is accessible. There is an additional positive impact as homes are hardened and saved.

Representative Jordan Redman is sponsoring this legislation.

Unexpected Medical Bills and the No Surprises Act

Market Oversight Bureau Chief Shannon Hohl sat down with KTVB last month to discuss how Idahoans can protect themselves against surprise medical billing. The No Surprises Act is meant to help Idahoans avoid unexpected high medical bills when they receive care from an out-of-network provider through no fault of their own. Consumers are encouraged to contact the DOI at 208-334-4319 or consumeraffairs@doi.idaho.gov with questions about the act or if they are worried they might have been charged too much.



Video: [How Idahoans can protect themselves against surprise medical billing](#)

Link: [Unexpected Medical Bills and the No Surprises Act](#)

Update on State Rulemaking Activity

During the second regular session of the sixty-seventh Idaho legislature, the DOI has nine pending rules that were published in the [Idaho Administrative Bulletin 23-12](#) (beginning on page 49). These include:



- IDAPA 18.01.02 - Schedule of fees, licenses and miscellaneous charges. This rule provides amounts to be collected for insurance fees, licenses, and miscellaneous charges. One registration fee is reduced, and a registration fee is added for Pharmacy Benefit Managers, which started registering with the Department in 2021.
- IDAPA 18.04.04 - The Managed Care Reform Act rule. This rule implements the Managed Reform Act by defining and establishing operating procedures. Proposed changes are to simplify, clarify, and reduce.
- IDAPA 18.04.08 - Individual and group supplementary disability insurance minimum standards rule. This rule standardizes and simplifies the terms and coverages of individual and group supplementary disability insurance. The changes update and clarify language and broaden the allowable benefit period for disability insurance protection coverage.
- IDAPA 18.06.01 - Rules pertaining to bail agents. This rule sets requirements and procedures relating to bail agents. Changes are to simplify, clarify, and reduce.
- IDAPA 18.06.02 - Producers handling of fiduciary funds. This rule sets allowable fiduciary fund accounts and types, deposits of other funds, account designation, interest, and disbursement of funds. Changes are to simplify, clarify, and reduce.
- IDAPA 18.06.03 - Rules governing disclosure requirements for insurance producers when charging fees. The Department is repealing this rule in its entirety.
- IDAPA 18.07.06 - Rules governing life and health reinsurance agreements. This rule sets standards for reinsurance agreements involving life insurance, annuities, or accident and sickness insurance in order that financial statements properly reflect business of the insurer. Changes are to simplify, clarify, and reduce.
- IDAPA 18.07.10 - Corporate governance annual disclosure. This rule sets procedures for filing and required content of the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD), necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 64, Idaho Code, and is subject to accreditation review. Changes are to simplify, clarify, and reduce.
- IDAPA 18.08.01 - Adoption of the International Fire Code. This rule adopts the International Fire Code and edits by the State Fire Marshal, such as the minimum standard for the protection of life and property from fire and explosion in the state of Idaho. Changes are to simplify, clarify, and reduce.

Link: [Idaho Administrative Bulletin 23-12](#)

Company Activities

DOI hosted the Idaho Land Title Association monthly liaison meeting. This collaboration helps protect both consumers and industry alike—allowing for a proactive approach for title agents to better serve consumers and helps mitigate future compliance issues by providing education and guidance.



Company Activities

- The Idaho Department of Insurance’s Accreditation was reaffirmed at the Fall National Meeting in December 2023. There were no concerns noted. Idaho’s full Accreditation is critical for other states and jurisdictions to reciprocate Idaho’s regulatory authority. Idaho’s Accreditation also minimizes regulatory burdens for Idaho domestic insurers, ensuring they will not become unduly subject to other jurisdiction’s authority.
- Producer Licensing electronic fingerprinting and scheduling is live through our vendor, PearsonVue. [Scheduling information is available on the Department’s website](#), or please contact our Licensing staff at 208-334-4339.



Link: [Testing and Fingerprints](#)

State Fire Marshal



The Idaho State Fire Marshal’s Office ended the calendar year responding to 206 fire investigations—31 of which were determined to be arson, and 16 of which are still under investigation.

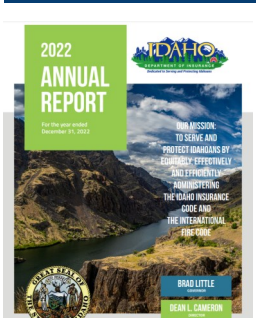
We performed 782 fire sprinkler plan reviews, 207 Fire alarm reviews, and 356 construction plans. This is a clear indication of the growth occurring in Idaho.

Consumer Services

- On December 9, Karl Fromm and Jim Scanlon represented Consumer Affairs at the Idaho Army National Guard’s Post Deployment Yellow Ribbon Event. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program connects Guard and Reserve Service members, their families and loved ones with local resources before, during, and after deployments, especially during the reintegration phase that continues well-beyond the Service members return home. There were a total of 817 attendees, 573 service members and 231 adult family members in attendance.
- The 2023 Medicare Annual Open Enrollment (OEP) was a successful one for [SHIBA](#). This year we provided over 1,850 Medicare Counseling hours to 3,123 individuals during OEP!
- The DOI announced the sentencing of Lanae Lynn Perez of Marsing, Idaho for insurance fraud. Read the full news release here: [Marsing woman sentenced for insurance fraud](#)



DOI 2022 Annual Report



Per Idaho Code 41-216, the Director annually shall transmit to the governor a report of his official transactions containing with respect to the prior calendar year with pertinent information and matters as prescribed by code or determined by the Director.

The DOI 2022 Annual report (for the year ended December 31, 2022) is now available online for public review.

Link: [2022 Annual Report](#)

A home inventory: Why you need it and how to do it



Having a detailed home inventory is important if you ever need to make an insurance claim. And the new year is a great time to undertake this task. Here are four things to know about making a home inventory.



English: [Prepare a home inventory](#)

Spanish: [Inventario de la casa](#)

We’re Hiring!



If you’re looking for a meaningful career that makes a difference, the Idaho Department of Insurance may be the right fit for you!

[View all current openings](#)



The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information visit doi.idaho.gov.

Idaho Department of Insurance
700 W. State Street, 3rd Floor, Boise, ID 83702
(208) 334-4250

To subscribe/unsubscribe to this list: <http://admws.idaho.gov/mailman/listinfo/idoinews>