

UNDERSTAND YOUR POLICY

Most insurance policies have three major sections: additional living expenses, personal contents, and the physical structure.

Understanding these sections will help you navigate the claim process and receive a fair settlement.

ADDITIONAL LIVING EXPENSE (ALE)

This section of your policy is intended to alleviate the financial stress of any additional expenses you incur, above your regular spending, such as extra gas or food costs.

Advice: After a fire or flood, it is common to incur several expenses. The most important thing you can do is to keep track of what you are spending and hold on to your receipts.

ACCOMODATIONS

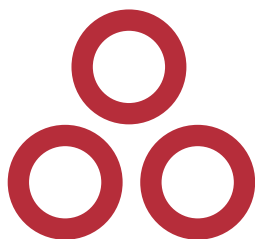
TRAVEL

STORAGE

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

FOOD

OTHER



PERSONAL CONTENTS

This section of your policy is intended to cover your damaged or destroyed goods. You or the insurer will create a schedule of loss (SOL). Negotiations around valuation and depreciation will follow.

Advice: Do not let the insurer rush this process.

FURNITURE

ART

CLOTHES

ELECTRONICS

JEWELRY

OTHER

STRUCTURE

This section of your policy is intended to return your physical structure (and sometimes additional structures) to their status prior to the fire or flood.

Advice: Depending on the extent of damage to your home, the insurer may repair or rebuild your home. You can also ask for a cash settlement.

HOME

SHED

TO DO LIST

AFTER A FIRE OR FLOOD

Through personal and professional experience, we have learned that the following steps can help guide a family to ensure a fair settlement from the start.

1

FILE YOUR CLAIM IN WRITING

Immediately contact your insurance company and inform them of your loss in writing.

2

REQUEST YOUR LONG-FORM POLICY

Ask your adjuster for a full copy of your insurance policy, including the declaration page.

3

ORGANIZE AND TAKE PHOTOS

Take photos if possible or create a folder with existing photos from photo albums, your cell phone, or social media.

4

SAFEGUARD SENTIMENTAL ITEMS

Do not remove items from your home, unless they are sentimental or could be damaged further. Inform your adjuster of which items have been removed.



5

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING

It is valuable to keep a detailed notebook for the claims process and to communicate with your insurer via email for your records.

6

ASK FOR A CASH ADVANCE

The advance will be deducted from your final settlement amount.

7

UNDERSTAND YOUR POLICY

Familiarize yourself with your home insurance policy and budget for at least one year of displacement.

8

TRACK YOUR EXPENSES

Keep all of your receipts organized and ensure you are familiar with what expenses can and cannot be covered, and for how much.



I hired Virani Law after receiving an offer I was unhappy with and they were able to get my contents coverage paid out in full. Dealing with the insurance company was incredibly frustrating. I wish I had hired them sooner!"

- Geoffrey Holland