

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

JAMES J. DONELON COMMISSIONER

BULLETIN 07-01 (REVISED AND REISSUED)

TO: ALL INSURERS, INCLUDING HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS,

AND THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS

FROM: JAMES J. DONELON, COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

RE: CATASTROPHE RESPONSE PLANS

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Originally issued on February 8, 2007, the purpose of Bulletin 07-01 was to provide guidance to insurers and regulated entities concerning the statutorily required catastrophe response plans (CRP). On August 4, 2020, Bulletin 07-01 was revised and reissued to reflect numbering and formatting changes related to recodification. On December 19, 2022, Bulletin 07-01 was revised and reissued to notify all insurers, including health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and third-party administrators (TPAs) as defined in La. R.S. 22:46, of updated requirements with respect to maintaining and filing a CRP with the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) in accordance with Act 157 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session. Bulletin 07-01 is hereby revised and reissued to reflect non-substantive changes to the law in numbering by redesignation of the law by the Louisiana Law Institute.

Insurers that meet the exceptions found in La. R.S. 22:46(13)(a) and (14) are not required to file a CRP with the LDI. All other insurers, as defined in La. R.S. 22:46, including HMOs and TPAs, are required to maintain and file with the LDI a CRP that describes how the insurer, HMO, or TPA will respond to a catastrophe (a significant event declared by the Governor of Louisiana or determined by the Commissioner of Insurance that causes widespread property damage or loss) affecting its policyholders or subscribers in this state.

To file with the LDI, insurers, HMOs, and TPAs must submit their CRP through the Catastrophe Response Plan Module, which is located in the LDI's Industry Access Portal and accessible at https://ia.ldi.state.la.us/industryaccess. Insurers, HMOs, and TPAs are also required to file a revised CRP with the LDI whenever a previously filed CRP is changed. A revised CRP must be submitted via the Catastrophe Response Plan Module in the LDI's Industry Access Portal.

CRPs shall include the following information:

- 1) Emergency contact information of key or essential personnel.
- 2) Alternative office locations or work sites likely to be used in the event of a catastrophe.
- 3) Procedures to address the following:
 - a) The backup, storage, retrieval, and security of records and data used to adjust claims.
 - b) The handling and processing of claims, whether prior to or subsequent to the catastrophe.
 - c) Relevant training of staff.
 - d) Communication with agents, policyholders, and subscribers, in the event of mail delivery or other communication system disruption. Such communication shall address, at a minimum, the process for filing a claim and the method whereby an agent, policyholder, or subscriber can obtain information concerning a claim.
 - e) The distribution of catastrophe claims information to policyholders or subscribers.
- 4) Considering the scale of the catastrophe and the number of policies issued in the affected area, the methodology for determining the following:
 - a) The approximate number of field adjusters, desk adjusters, and other administrative personnel necessary to respond to the catastrophe.
 - b) The process through which the insurer or HMO will provide claims and administrative personnel to service policyholder and subscriber needs in a timely manner.
 - c) The process through which the insurer or HMO will provide logistical support for claims and administrative personnel in the area affected by the catastrophe.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 22:572, CRPs shall be considered confidential, proprietary information subject to the protections of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act and shall not be subject to public records disclosure or made public by the Commissioner of Insurance.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding Bulletin 07-01 (Revised and Reissued), please contact the Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Property and Casualty at 225-342-5203 or electronically at public@ldi.la.gov.

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana this 7th day of November 2023.

JAMES J. DONELON

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE