



South Carolina Department of Insurance

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South Carolina Department of Insurance Issues Data Call

Earlier this year, in order to respond to dramatically changing market conditions, the Department of Insurance in coordination with the Wind and Hail Underwriting Association (better known as the Wind Pool) expanded the areas in which Wind Pool coverage was available. Moving these boundaries inland was for the express purpose of attracting new carriers into the market while preventing carriers already providing coverage from "shedding" their existing coverage indiscriminately.

To fulfill the Department's promise to closely monitor the activities of carriers in the new zones, the Department of Insurance is now issuing a "data call" to all providers in the area. This data to be recorded by the carriers and reported to the Department of Insurance on a quarterly basis will monitor the effects of the Wind Pool expansion on the number of policies issued with and without wind coverage.

The Department realizes that some carriers will justifiably adjust and reduce their wind coverage within these areas. The Department has had extensive discussions with insurance carriers to allow this to be undertaken in a measured fashion, in order to maintain continuous and competitive coverage in a free and open market. The Department has made clear, however, that no carrier will be allowed to abuse the process.

The Wind Pool was established to be the market of last resort and should continue in that role. To date, all indications so far show that the voluntary market remains strong, even in the newly expanded areas now covered by the Wind Pool. The Department of Insurance advises all policy holders to shop their policy around regularly and to numerous companies for the best price and coverage. We urge you to call the Department for help if you feel you are being treated unfairly or need help locating a carrier. Please call the Department's toll-free (within SC) telephone number, 1-800-768-3467 and ask to speak with a Consumer Analyst.

Should you have questions concerning the information in this release, please contact Ann Roberson, Public Information Officer for the South Carolina Department of Insurance at 803-737-6207.

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