Hail and Wind claims are on the rise

The Benchmark™ history of natural hazards is integrated into the XactAnalysis® claims management system and Xactimate® estimating service from Xactware. Now, insurance claims managers and adjusters can access automated and on-demand hail, wind, and lightning reports for each property.

Over the past few years, insurers in the United States and Canada have been impacted by increased hail claims and rising loss ratios, costing millions of dollars each year.

We listened to customers who asked for more efficient ways to validate weather claims in the field. That’s why we created Benchmark for XactAnalysis and Benchmark for Xactimate.

Benchmark is the most comprehensive address-specific hail, wind, rain, and lightning history database available. Integrating the Benchmark natural hazards history of each property into existing claims workflows through XactAnalysis and Xactimate enables insurers to:

• shorten claims adjustment cycles
• validate claims accuracy
• improve catastrophe treaty classification and recovery

What insurers are saying

“The adjuster is much better prepared for the inspection with the information contained on the Hail Report. Understanding that the loss may have occurred on a different date, or that damage was not attributable to hail, are key data points to know before discussing with the policyholder.” – Top 10 P&C Carrier Claims Manager

“The Hail History reports through XactAnalysis provide our adjusters a tool to properly identify inaccurate dates of loss, which is critical to allocate losses correctly to our catastrophe treaties. We’ve saved thousands of dollars using these reports.” – Farm Bureau Claims Manager

“Getting these Wind History reports through XactAnalysis is a no-brainer. The concise reports allow our adjusters to evaluate the likelihood of a loss including the appropriate date of loss.” – Top 20 Insurer Operations Manager
How it Works

The reports can be accessed in both XactAnalysis and Xactimate.

As a notice of loss comes into XactAnalysis and a weather-related claim is assigned, XactAnalysis pulls the property’s Hail History Report (or Wind or Lightning Report) from the Benchmark database and populates the claim record with hail, wind, and lightning details for property location and date of loss.

Reports generated in XactAnalysis are also populated into Xactimate or can be ordered directly in Xactimate at the beginning of the estimating process. This flexibility allows insurers and roofing contractors to pull data from the same source to validate a loss date.

• Claims professionals can quickly access Benchmark data to validate the reported date and cause of loss of each claim, reducing inaccuracies for claims dated last week, month, or year, and shortening the claims cycle.
• Straightforward, validated claims can be processed cost-effectively by junior staff or independent adjusters.
• For claims where questions arise, the adjuster is able to proactively correct information about the claim based on the Benchmark database, in consultation with the property owner when appropriate.

Enterprise-wide Consistency

Benchmark for XactAnalysis and Xactimate provides a consistent view of the natural hazards history across the entire claims team including third-party service providers. Claims managers can rely on a highly accurate assessment of hail, wind, and lightning for every claim, geocoded by address. This consistent view can be extended enterprise-wide when used in conjunction with other Verisk services such as:
• Hail Risk Score™ and Hail Damage Score™ underwriting risk scoring tools, powered by the Benchmark database
• Respond™, the near real time natural hazards analytics and forecast service that populates the Benchmark database

The Respond service analyzes regional and property-specific hail, wind, rain, hurricane, tornado, wildfire, and winter storm information in the continental United States and Canada. Using Respond, claims managers can quickly:
• make an accurate estimate of the potential claims volume
• make an informed decision on the resources needed to proactively respond

Why insurers prefer Benchmark for claims weather intelligence

1. Fast. Speeds claims process and reduces cycle time. Embeds reports within existing work flows.
2. Easy to use. 
   • Puts property weather history in the hands of the operational team. Minimizes guesswork by field adjustors.
   • Minimizes IT needs. Turning on the reports capability in XactAnalysis and Xactimate takes just an hour with no IT involvement.
4. Streamlines claims management.
   • Expedites claims process by providing adjusters with value-add reports of the weather history at the property.
   • Provides mechanism to assign adjusters depending on weather severity at the property.
   • Reduces multiple inspections.
   • Adds value to policyholder conversations when a claim is being substantiated.
5. Cost-effective.
   • Manage adjusting staff more efficiently.
   • Reduces losses by identifying fraud earlier.
   • Increases recoveries through validation of correct DOL.
6. Comprehensive. Provide the most extensive history of weather-related events for each property location.

Xactware Solutions

Xactware is the industry’s leading claims management company. A part of Verisk Insurance Solutions, Xactware specializes in technologies for the property insurance, remodeling, restoration, mortgage, and lending industries. Our tools include Xactimate, the industry’s easiest-to-use and most comprehensive software solution for property claims, and XactAnalysis, the first, largest, and only full-cycle claims analytical and reporting tool available in the property insurance industry.

Verisk Insurance Solutions

Verisk Insurance Solutions provides software, data, and analytics for enterprise climate risk management. Insurers can apply our solutions to help improve customer service, achieve more accurate risk selection, and lower claims expense.

Want to know more?

To learn how we can help you manage weather-related risks and claims, contact us at 800.424.9228 | sales@Xactware.com | Xactware.com. Xactware provides sales and support for the Benchmark and Respond products from Verisk Insurance Solutions.