
Section 1: 8-K (FORM 8-K)

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

Current Report

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 19, 2018

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED
(Exact Name Of Registrant As Specified In Charter)

Bermuda
(State of Incorporation)

001-31721
(Commission File No.)

98-0395986
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

92 Pitts Bay Road
Pembroke, Bermuda HM 08
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(441) 496-2600
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not applicable
(Former name or address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2 below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e(4)(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 **Other Events.**

On December 19, 2018, AXIS Capital Holdings Limited, a Bermuda company, issued the attached press release providing a preliminary pre-tax loss estimate for the California wildfires impacting fourth quarter 2018 financial results.

Item 9.01 **Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press release dated December 19, 2018

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description of Document</u>
99.1	Press release dated December 19, 2018 SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: December 19, 2018

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

By: /s/ Conrad Brooks

Conrad Brooks
General Counsel

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Section 2: EX-99.1 (PRESS RELEASE DATED DECEMBER 19, 2018)



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AXIS CAPITAL PROVIDES PRELIMINARY LOSS ESTIMATE FOR CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES IMPACTING FOURTH QUARTER 2018 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Pembroke, Bermuda, December 19, 2018 - AXIS Capital Holdings Limited ("AXIS Capital" or the "Company") (NYSE: AXS) today announced a preliminary pre-tax loss estimate for California wildfires in the range of \$125 million to \$150 million, net of estimated recoveries from reinsurance and retrocessional covers and including the impact of estimated reinstatement premiums. The estimate includes losses from aggregate excess of loss reinsurance treaties that were also impacted by losses from other 2018 catastrophe and weather-related events. The Company's loss estimate is consistent with industry insured losses of up to \$20 billion.

The Company's preliminary pre-tax loss estimate for Hurricane Michael is currently at the upper end of the previously disclosed range of \$100 million to \$120 million.

The Company's loss estimate is based on its ground-up assessment of losses from individual contracts and treaties exposed to the affected regions, including preliminary information from clients, brokers and loss adjusters. Industry insured loss estimates, market share analyses and catastrophe modeling analyses were also taken into account where appropriate. Due to the nature of this event, including the complexity of loss assessment, factors contributing to the losses and the preliminary nature of the information available to prepare this estimate, the actual net ultimate amount of

losses for this event may be materially different from this current estimate.

About AXIS Capital

AXIS Capital is a Bermuda-based global provider of specialty lines insurance and treaty reinsurance with shareholders' equity at September 30, 2018 of \$5.3 billion and locations in Bermuda, the United States, Europe, Singapore, Middle East, Canada and Latin America. Its operating subsidiaries have been assigned a rating of "A+" ("Strong") by Standard & Poor's and "A+" ("Superior") by A.M. Best. For more information about AXIS Capital, visit our website at www.axiscapital.com.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. federal securities laws. Forward-looking statements contained in this release include information regarding our estimates of losses related to catastrophe and weather events. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual events or results may differ materially from our expectations. Important factors that could cause actual events or results to be materially different from our expectations include actual claims exceeding our loss reserves; the failure of any of the loss limitation methods we employ; the effects of emerging claims, coverage and regulatory issues, including uncertainty related to coverage definitions, limits, terms and conditions; the failure of our cedants to adequately evaluate risks; the use of industry catastrophe models and changes to these models; general economic conditions; and the other factors set forth in our most recent reports on Form 10-K, Form 10-Q and other documents on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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