

ELLIS EDWARD H JR
Form 4
December 15, 2008

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
ELLIS EDWARD H JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS INC/DE/ [HCC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)
 Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Executive Vice President & CFO

(Last) (First) (Middle)
C/O HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC., 13403 NORTHWEST FREEWAY
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/12/2008

HOUSTON, TX 77040
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code			4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount					(D)
Common Stock	12/12/2008		S		25,000	D	24.5169 <u>(1)</u>	55,000	D	
Common Stock								375	I	By Wife

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Pr Deriv Secur (Instr			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Option to Purchase (2)	\$ 28.53					(3)		09/28/2011		Common Stock	100,000
Option to Purchase (2)	\$ 33.18					(4)		04/10/2011		Common Stock	50,000
Option to Purchase (2)	\$ 31.92					(5)		05/09/2011		Common Stock	50,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

ELLIS EDWARD H JR
C/O HCC INSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
13403 NORTHWEST FREEWAY
HOUSTON, TX 77040

X

Executive Vice President & CFO

Signatures

Randy D. Rinicella as Attorney in Fact for Edward H. Ellis, Jr.

12/15/2008

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

- (1) The price \$24.516878 represents a weighted average of sales prices ranging from \$24.32 to \$24.809. Full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price will be provided to the SEC, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer upon request.
- (2) Option to purchase granted pursuant to the 2004 Flexible Incentive Plan.

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- (3) The options vest equally annually over a 4 year period beginning 09/28/06 at 25,000 shares per year.
- (4) The options vest annually over a 3 year period at 16,667, 16,666 and 16,667 each year respectively beginning 04/10/07.
- (5) The options vest annually over a 3 year period at 16,667, 16,666 and 16,667 each year respectively beginning 12/31/07.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.