

MARKEL CORP  
Form 8-K  
October 26, 2009

**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: October 22, 2009**

(Date of earliest event reported)

**Markel Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Virginia**  
(State or other jurisdiction)

**001-15811**  
(Commission)

**54-1959284**  
(IRS Employer)

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(State of incorporation)

(File Number)  
4521 Highwoods Parkway

(Identification No.)

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060-6148

(804) 747-0136

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

(Former name or former 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))

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

Paul W. Springman, President and Chief Operating Officer, has taken a leave of absence for personal reasons, effective October 22, 2009. Mr. Springman's responsibilities will be assumed by other members of the Company's senior management team during his absence.

**SIGNATURE**

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 thereunto duly authorized.

MARKEL CORPORATION

Date: October 26, 2009

By: /s/ RICHARD R. WHITT, III  
Name: **Richard R. Whitt, III**  
Title: **Chief Financial Officer**