

**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) June 17, 2009

NATIONAL WESTERN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

COLORADO
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

84-0467208
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

2-17039
(Commission File Number)

850 EAST ANDERSON LANE, AUSTIN, TEXAS
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

78752-1602
(Zip code)

(512) 836-1010
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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:

- 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 8.01 Other Events

On June 17, 2009, National Western Life Insurance Company (“Company”) announced an upgrade of financial strength rating via press release. A copy of the Company's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1. This Form 8-K and the attached exhibit are provided under Item 8.01 of Form 8-K and are furnished to, but not filed with, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The press release is available at the Company's website, www.nationalwesternlife.com.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated June 17, 2009

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 hereunto duly authorized.

NATIONAL WESTERN LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY

/S/Brian M. Pribyl

Brian M. Pribyl
Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Date: June 18, 2009

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release of National Western Life Insurance Company issued June 17, 2009 announcing an upgrade of financial strength rating.

NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL WESTERN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

EXHIBIT 99.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Western Life Announces Upgrade of Financial Strength Rating

Austin, Texas, June 17, 2009 - Ross R. Moody, President of National Western Life Insurance Company (Nasdaq: NWLI), announced today that the Company had received an upgrade of its financial strength rating from A.M. Best Company, a global full-service credit rating organization. The Company's financial strength rating was increased to "A" (Excellent) from "A-" and its rating outlook was designated as "stable".

In its news release earlier today, A.M. Best noted that the rating action for National Western reflected its "increasing statutory capital and generally increasing GAAP equity trends, as well as its superior level of risk-adjusted capitalization, which has been further enhanced by its overall profitable operating performance." Mr. Moody indicated, "The financial strength rating upgrade is a major achievement for National Western, particularly when you consider that the major rating organizations currently maintain an overall 'negative outlook' on the life insurance industry. The upgrade action taken by A.M. Best, in the midst of a very challenging economic backdrop, speaks volumes of our Company's accomplishments, management, and approach to doing business."

In addition, A.M. Best observed that "the company's risk-adjusted capitalization has been further enhanced by a conservative investment portfolio that has, thus far, avoided significant realized and unrealized investment losses and has limited exposure to many of the higher risk asset classes." Mr. Moody noted that the Company's Board of Directors has established sound investment guidelines within which the company's management operates and conducts its affairs. "I cannot say enough about the outstanding job our internal investment managers have done in managing the Company's investment portfolio and substantially avoiding the pitfalls that have beleaguered other companies in our industry," Mr. Moody stated.

Founded in 1956, National Western Life is a stock life insurance company offering a broad portfolio of individual universal life, whole life and term insurance plans, annuity products, and investment contracts meeting the financial needs of its customers in 49 states as well as residents of various countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. The Company has approximately 290 employees and 9,700 contracted independent agents, brokers and consultants, and at March 31, 2009, maintained total assets of \$6.9 billion, stockholders' equity of \$1.0 billion, and life insurance in force of \$18.7 billion.

News release contact:

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