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NEWS RELEASE

COMMISSIONER POIZNER REMINDS MANDATORY LOCKHEED FIRE AND LA BREA FIRE EVACUEES THAT INSURANCE MAY COVER LIVING EXPENSES

Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner reminded residents who have been evacuated due to the Lockheed Fire in Santa Cruz County and the La Brea Fire in Santa Barbara County that they may be eligible for reimbursement for additional living expenses due to mandatory evacuations. Commissioner Poizner also encouraged all Californians to make sure their insurance policies are updated and to conduct a home inventory today.

“I urge everyone who has been evacuated from their home to check their insurance policies,” said Commissioner Poizner. “Many homeowners policies cover additional living expenses incurred as a result of a mandatory evacuation. Coming up with extra money for hotel stays, extra food and other additional living costs are the last thing fire evacuees should have to worry about. Check your policy, and if you have any insurance questions, call the Department of Insurance at 800-927-HELP.”

For the most recent information about these fires, including containment and evacuation information, visit the CAL FIRE website at <http://calfire.ca.gov/>.

Many residential homeowners insurance policies cover what is known as ALE, or additional living expenses. This permits homeowners to maintain their normal standard of living by covering the increased living expenses incurred as a result of damage caused by the fire or a mandatory evacuation. ALE coverage typically includes extra food costs, increased housing costs, furniture rental, relocation and storage costs, telephone installation and extra transportation costs to and from school or work, after the deductible is reached.

A free [home inventory guide](#) is available on the Department of Insurance website at www.insurance.ca.gov, or by calling the CDI Consumer Hotline at 800-927-HELP.

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Please visit the Department of Insurance Web site at www.insurance.ca.gov. Non media inquiries should be directed to the Consumer Hotline at 800.927.HELP. Callers from out of state, please dial 213.897.8921. Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD), please dial 800.482.4833.