

Press Release

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Offers Equipment Breakdown Coverage to Homeowners in Washington

New Insurance is Designed for 'Smart Homes'

NOVATO, Calif., (Apr. 29, 2009) – Security systems, central heat and air conditioning, lighting systems, and the 'smart' computer systems that regulate them, are just a few necessities supplied by equipment that is susceptible to breaking down. That's why Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is offering homeowners in Washington a new coverage to protect against the breakdown of equipment used to provide these and other critical services in the home.

The coverage is unusual since most homeowners' policies do not cover mechanical, electrical, or heating equipment breakdown, resulting in costly repair bills for the homeowner.

With the growing number of higher-end 'smart' homes, this equipment has become much more critical. Typically, smart homes integrate technology and services through digital networking for a better quality of living. Fireman's Fund's new insurance also protects the computer systems that manage the equipment. These systems run security systems, pools, spas, central heating and air conditioning, lighting systems, vacuum systems, and more.

Bill and Melinda Gates' home just outside of Seattle, Washington, might be the most famous smart home to date, according to howstuffworks.com. The Web site notes that everyone in the Gates' home is pinned with an electronic tracking chip. Lights come on and fade out as people move through the home.

"With the trend toward larger homes, smart homes and more sophisticated equipment, homeowners face greater financial losses from breakdowns than ever before," said Don Soss, vice president, Fireman's Fund Personal Insurance. "Families depend on this equipment for comfort, safety and convenience. It represents a significant part of a home's value. The breakdown coverage helps protect that investment so a homeowner isn't surprised by a large repair bill."

Under the new coverage, many types of equipment are covered, including central air conditioning systems (including compressors, condensers, and air handler units), heating equipment and heat pumps, ventilating systems, and

boilers and hot water heaters. Also covered are emergency generators, well pumps, filtration systems for air and water, central vacuum systems, swimming pool filtration, pumps, and heating equipment, and chair lifts and elevators.

About Fireman's Fund

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial and specialty insurance products nationwide. It is rated 'AA-' by Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world's largest providers of insurance and financial services. For additional information, visit www.firemansfund.com.

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