

## Press Release

### **Will My Home Be Spared During A Wildfire?**

#### ***Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Says It's Possible***

NOVATO, Calif., (June 17, 2009) – How can I protect my home if I live in an area that is prone to wildfires? This is a question Fireman's Fund Insurance Company's Risk Services Consultants get asked on a regular basis. Due to drought conditions in many parts of the country, homeowners need to be proactive by protecting their property.

"As evidenced in the recent Santa Barbara wildfires, many burned structures did not have the basics of fire protection: fire-safe construction, defensible space, and clear roadway access," said Dan Cuccia, catastrophe director for Fireman's Fund.

"Managing vegetation and clearing defensible space are tried and true defenses in a wildfire as well as construction that is fire-safe. These preventative measures are the focus of the Fireman's Fund Wildfire Program because they are more reliable and save more homes than last minute attempts such as spraying fire retardants on homes," said Cuccia.

"Prevention is the single most effective strategy for saving lives and property from wildfire," said Chief Jeff Meston (retired), Novato, Calif. Fire Protection District. "It is important to work with the fire service professionals on preparation and prevention."

Fireman's Fund's Risk Services consultants are available to do a wildfire risk assessment for homeowner's in a wildfire area. They also refer customers to companies such as Wildfire Solutions for specialized services such as automated fire curtains, computer controlled exterior fire sprinkler systems, utility emergency shut-off systems, and clearing of defensible space.

Managing vegetation and clearing defensible space aren't difficult. Companies such as Wildfire Solutions Group ([wildfiresolutionsgroup.org](http://wildfiresolutionsgroup.org)) are available to assess the property, clear a defensible space, and assist with an evacuation plan in advance. Clearing a space of 100 feet around the home is the recommendation of most fire departments and insurance companies.

Embers from the wildfires are a major cause of homes catching on fire. Fire-safe construction helps to repel embers with fire resistive roofing, sealed eaves, and incorporates the use of sprinkler systems. Metal exterior window and door screens protect from wildfire embers and radiant heat caused by

wildfires. Firewise.org has an excellent checklist available for homeowners.  
<http://www.firewise.org/usa/files/fwlists.pdf>

### **About Fireman's Fund**

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal and commercial insurance products nationwide. It is rated 'AA-' by Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, Fireman's Fund continues this effort today through its national philanthropic efforts. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world's largest providers of insurance and other financial services. For more information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

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