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## Press Release

### **Fireman's Fund New Wildfire Readiness Program Stresses Prevention and Collaboration with Fire Service**

NOVATO, Calif., (Aug 27, 2008) – Now in the critical months of wildfire season, Fireman's Fund is introducing an aggressive, comprehensive, prevention-focused program for homeowners.

The Wildfire Readiness Program was developed in collaboration with fire departments and wildfire defense companies. Dan Cuccia, Fireman's Fund wildfire specialist, emphasizes that the two best solutions for saving lives and property during a wildfire event are *preparation* and *prevention*.

"Our wildfire mitigation strategy is closely aligned with, and supported by, fire departments," he says. "Our proactive measures play a critical role in reducing the likelihood that a home will burn if threatened by an advancing fire. Every dollar and every minute spent on prevention is invaluable to reduce wildfire risk."

Highlights of the program include:

- **Wildfire susceptibility assessment:** A Fireman's Fund Risk Management advisor evaluates and scores (based on a nationally-recognized method) each area of the home and surrounding property, with areas of concern identified and recommendations made to improve survivability.
- **Defensible space/fuels management:** Fireman's Fund has developed close partnerships with firms that clear and manage brush and other fuels in an environmentally sensitive way.
- **Fire service visits:** Representatives of local fire departments may make on-site visits to review firefighting strategies for specific locations.
- **Evacuation:** Pre-planning saves time and can save property and lives. These services provide evacuation pre-planning assistance. For select accounts, these services can help ensure that family members are safely removed from harm's way, and can have a prearranged list of valuables removed from a property.

- **Safeguarding:** Offered with a leading firm in the firefighting industry, the program provides on-site wildfire service at preferred pricing. Firefighting equipment and crew are stationed on-site until the threat of wildfire has passed. This arrangement is complemented by a pre-event visit and customized consultation.
- **Fire-retardant gel application:** (California only) For policyholders who hire independent companies that apply fire retardant gel, Fireman's Fund will pay a portion of the costs incurred for applying a chemical fire retardant during a wildfire event.

Founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, Fireman's Fund continues this mission today through the Fireman's Fund Heritage Program<sup>SM</sup>. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, The Fireman's Fund Heritage Program has provided \$5 million in training and equipment grants to California fire departments and agencies—and \$19 million nationwide.

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial and specialty insurance products nationwide. It is rated 'A+' 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. Allianz ranks as the most sustainable insurer in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index based on its economic, social and environmental performance. For additional information, visit [www.firemansfund.com](http://www.firemansfund.com).

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