

PRESS RELEASE



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Press Release from CAPIA

October 21st, 2015

Subject: Valley and Butte Wildfires

The California Association of Public Insurance Adjusters, CAPIA, feels strongly that adequately insured wildfire victims should seek out and work with qualified professional public insurance adjusters in order to protect their financial interests and to best assure the emotional and financial well being of their families. Qualified public adjusters prepare, present, and negotiate claims following the types of disasters recently seen in Northern California. Public adjusters level the playing field allowing the homeowner to be on equal footing with the professionals employed by insurance companies to protect the insurance companies' financial interests.

- Check to confirm that the public adjuster you are speaking to is licensed by the California Department of Insurance (www.insurance.ca.gov/license-status).
- Make certain that the public adjuster you are considering has local and regional experience.
- Thoroughly check out a public adjuster's references.
- Check out a public adjuster's Better Business Bureau rating.
- Review the public adjuster's website.

CA DOI Disclosures require the following statutory language for the consumer:

1. Public adjusters means the insurance adjusters who do not work for your insurance company. They work for you, the insured, to assist in the preparation, presentation, and settlement of your claim. You hire them by signing a contract and agreeing to pay them a fee or commission based on a percentage of the settlement, or other method of compensation. Public adjusters are required to be licensed, bonded, and tested by the State of California to represent your interest only.
2. Company adjusters means the insurance adjusters who are employees of your insurance company. They represent your insurance company and are paid by your insurance company. They will not charge you a fee and are not individually licensed or tested by the State of California.
3. Independent adjusters means the insurance adjusters who are hired on a contract basis by your insurance company to represent the company in the settlement of the claim. They are paid by your insurance company. They will not charge you a fee.

Keep in Mind:

- Company adjusters and independent adjusters are either employees of your insurance company or contracted by your insurance company to represent them, not you.
- A public adjuster Agreement MUST include a three day cancellation provision.
- Public adjusters may not solicit your business after 6:00 PM and before 8:00AM.
- A public adjuster MUST present a DOI mandated Disclosure to you.
- Beware of public adjusters who insist you work with certain vendors to do repairs or to rebuild your property.
- Beware of contractors who claim they can perform the same services as a public adjuster (CA Ins Code Section 15006). Contractors cannot legally prepare, present or negotiate claims.

For more information, please contact your local CAPIA public adjuster or email us at info@capiainc.com.