To All Concerned:

As you are likely aware, over the last ten days, wildfires raced across Southern California, fanned by ferocious Santa Ana wind conditions resulting in losses covering seven counties. Beginning on the morning of Sunday, October 21, 2007, Santa Ana winds, blowing from east to west, produced strong winds that drove fires into populated areas. By mid-week, there were 23 wildfires burning from the hills and canyons of Santa Barbara to the U.S. border with Mexico, damaging over 500 square miles of public, residential, commercial and agricultural land.

The fires destroyed in excess of 2,000 homes and damaged many businesses. The fires prompted hundreds of thousands of Southern California residents to seek emergency accommodations at shelters set up throughout the region as more than 10,000 fire fighters battled the fires. Power and water were cut off in numerous communities. The two major north/south freeways between San Diego and Los Angeles were closed, as was a primary east/west route. Surface streets were closed in several areas to allow for evacuation and for use by emergency vehicles. The mayor in at least one city ordered all but essential personnel to avoid travel to work. The state and federal governments declared States of Emergency. On Thursday, October 25, 2007, President Bush, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senator Diane Feinstein and Representatives Brian Bilbray, Duncan Hunter and Darrel Issa toured the devastation. City and county offices, and numerous businesses closed, as did key tourist destinations. The cost to insurers is currently estimated to be $1.6 billion dollars and is climbing.

As the fires and the winds have calmed, it is becoming clear that the 2003 wildfires were worse. By almost every measure, more damage was done 4 years ago when the Cedar Fire and two other San Diego County blazes damaged 376,237 acres, killed 16 people and destroyed 2,458 homes.

In an effort to evaluate recovery opportunities, Cozen O'Connor is coordinating with investigators and various local and state fire authorities, as well as continuing to monitor all news reports and investigations regarding these fires. As further information is developed, legal theories of recovery will be considered, including negligence, inverse condemnation, and violation of any applicable regulations, ordinances or regulations, including California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, which sets out the requirements and standards for construction of overhead power lines.
Below is the updated information on the major fires within the Southern California region.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

1. **Harris Fire**
   - Time started: 9:23 a.m. 10/21/07
   - Area and acreage: Southeastern portion of San Diego County, 90,440 acres
   - Cause: Under investigation.
   - Structures destroyed: 206 homes, 52 other buildings

2. **Witch Creek Fire**
   - Time started: 12:35 p.m. 10/21/07 in community of Witch Creek on State Route 78
   - Area and acreage: mid to north San Diego County from Rancho Santa Fe on the west to Ramona on the east, 197,990 acres
   - Cause: Under investigation, some reports of downed power lines. (San Diego Union)
   - Structures destroyed: 1,040 homes, 414 other buildings

3. **McCoy Fire**
   - Time started: 11:37 p.m. 10/21/07
   - Area: Cleveland National Forest, Community of Boulder Creek, near Eagle Peak (east of Ramona and San Diego Country Estates and south of Witch fire), 353 acres
   - Structures destroyed: 1 residence, 1 out building
   - Cause of Fire: Under investigation

4. **Coronado Hills Fire (San Marcos)**
   - Time started: 1:15 a.m. 10/22/07 (near radio towers above homes near Ridgeline and Coronado Hills development)
   - Area: City of San Marcos, San Diego County, 250 acres
   - Damages: 2 out buildings destroyed
   - Cause: Under investigation
5. Rice Canyon Fire

- Time started: 4:16 a.m. 10/22/07 in Rice Canyon, east of Fallbrook
- Area: North San Diego County, including Fallbrook and Rainbow, 9,000 acres
- Structures destroyed: 206 homes, including 120 mobile homes, 2 commercial buildings, and 40 out buildings.
- Cause: Under investigation, possible downed power lines. (San Diego Union)

6. Horno/Ammo Fire

- Time started: 9:19 a.m., 10/22/07
- Area: Camp Pendleton (northwest San Diego County), 21,089 acres
- Structures destroyed: 0
- Cause: Under investigation

7. Poomacha Fire

- Time started: 3:13 a.m. 10/23/07 in area of La Jolla Indian Reservation.
- Area: Northeastern San Diego County, including communities of Valley Center, Rincon, and Palomar Mountain, 49,540 acres
- Structures destroyed: 135 homes, 19 out buildings
- Cause: Under investigation, possible house fire. (San Diego Union)

**ORANGE COUNTY**

8. Santiago Fire

- Time started: 5:55 p.m., 10/21/07
- Area: Southeastern Orange County, Santiago Canyon, 28,400 acres
- Structures destroyed: 15 residential structures, 9 out buildings
- Cause: Under investigation, suspected arson. (California Dept. of Forestry)
Riverside County
9. Roca Fire

Time started: 10/21/07
Area: South Riverside County, east of Temecula, 411 acres
Structures destroyed: 1 home
Cause: Under investigation

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

10. Grass Valley Fire

Time started: 5:08 a.m., 10/22/07
Area: Northwest of Lake Arrowhead, 1,247 acres
Structures Destroyed: 174 homes, 2 out buildings
Cause: Under investigation

11. Slide Fire

Time started: 8:02 a.m., 10/22/07, near Running Springs
Area: Running Springs/Lake Arrowhead area, 12,789 acres
Structures destroyed: estimated 201 homes, 3 other buildings
Cause: Under investigation

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

12. Ranch Fire

Date started: 10/20/07
Area: Northwest Los Angeles County, 58,401 acres
Structures destroyed: 1 residence, 9 outbuildings
Cause: Under investigation
13. Malibu Canyon Fire

Date started: 10/21/07
Area: Malibu Canyon, 4,500 acres
Structures destroyed: 6 homes, 2 commercial properties
Cause: Under Investigation

14. Buckweed Fire

Date started: 10/21/07
Area: North Los Angeles County, 38,356 acres
Structures destroyed: 31 homes, 42 out buildings
Cause: Juvenile playing with matches (L.A. County Sheriff)

15. Magic Fire

Date started: 10/22/07
Area: Santa Clarita, 2,824 acres
Structures destroyed: None confirmed at this time
Cause: Undetermined

*Comments in the Cozen O’Connor Subrogation and Recovery Alert are not intended to provide legal advice. Readers should not act or rely on information in the Alert without seeking specific legal advice from Cozen O’Connor on matters which concern them.*