The "Washoe Drive Wildfire" erupted in Reno, Nev., on January 19, 2012. The wildfire is burning in a rural valley between Carson City and Reno and is not contained according to local authorities. The fire has burned approximately 3,700 acres and forced more than 10,000 residents to evacuate. Authorities report that 26 homes in both Washoe City and Pleasant Valley have been destroyed and many others have been impacted by smoke. Complicating matters, local authorities are concerned that forecast rainfall could cause flooding. About 150 firefighters worked on the fire overnight and 400 are expected today.

The Washoe County sheriff reports that the fire spread quickly, though crews did a good job of limiting the number of homes lost. The cause of the fire is under investigation. However, the fire appears to have started along U.S. Highway 395. That highway remains closed due to downed power lines on the road.

Cozen O’Connor has assembled a team of experts that are on scene to inspect the fire area and investigate the cause. The team includes fire investigators, weather experts, and engineers along with our Nevada legal team. The investigation will focus on finding whether any viable claims for recovery may be available.

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