

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Wyoming Department of Insurance Offers Assistance

CHEYENNE — Wyoming Insurance Commissioner Tom Glause announced this morning that the Wyoming Department of Insurance is sending personnel to assist people being impacted by the Roosevelt Area fires in the Pinedale, Bondurant, and Daniel areas. “Our hearts go out to the people who have suffered losses in this rapidly moving wildfire. I am making my staff available to assist people who have already suffered losses to begin their recovery as well as offering support for those whose homes are at risk,” said Glause.

Commissioner Glause encourages everyone to be vigilant about the dangers of wildfires. Those who are currently in the fire danger areas should stay up-to-date on the current situation and monitor reports on fire dangers and weather conditions in your area. Follow your local news and text or email alerts in your community. The Department of Insurance can assist people in contacting their agent or insurer as well as offering assistance in the insurance process. Glause noted that the insurance industry has helped many people rebuild their lives following numerous natural disasters.

If ordered to evacuate during a wildfire, do so immediately. If time allows, remember the “Six Ps of Evacuation: People, Pets, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs and Priceless Items.” **Do not return to an evacuated area until authorities allow re-entry.**

If you are in an area where a new fire erupts, Call 911. Provide the location of the fire and a description of the situation. Follow the instructions of the local law enforcement and fire suppression entities. Use local alerts, radios and other sources such as the American Red Cross to get timely information.

After you are allowed re-entry to a fire areas, proceed with caution. Hazards, including hot spots, may exist in burned areas. Wear leather gloves, protective clothing, and thick-soled shoes. Wait to return to your home until it is safe. In many disasters, the authorities won’t let you return if there are hazards such as hot spots, downed power lines, or ruptured gas lines. This is for your safety.

Once the authorities say it’s safe for you to return, check for hazards such as broken glass and sharp objects and remove them before entering. Once you’ve returned, take steps to prevent further damage. Make needed emergency repairs, such as covering roofs, walls, or windows with plywood, tarp, canvas, or other waterproof materials.

Call your insurance agent or insurer’s claims hotline as soon as it is safe. Ask your insurance agent or company if you have questions about what to do or how to do it and ask for a hard copy

or digital document of your insurance policy. Talk with your insurance agent or company before making any permanent repairs. You may not be reimbursed if you make any repairs your insurance company hasn't authorized. If possible, photograph your property damage. Your policy might require that you make the notification within a certain time frame. The Department of Insurance personnel can assist you in knowing how to contact your insurer and steps to follow after a disaster.

Residents are encouraged to speak to the DOI personnel in the area or to contact the Department with questions or concerns at: 307-777-7401, (800) 438-576, or online at: doi.wyo.gov.