

# SFG-VW-12



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY SITUATION  
by the  
Insurance Commissioner of the State of California

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2025, California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a [state of emergency](#) for the Los Angeles and Ventura Counties area due to the Palisades fire burning in California as a result of windstorm conditions; and

WHEREAS, the dwellings of thousands of California residents have been destroyed or damaged, hundreds of business structures have been destroyed or damaged, and tens of thousands of California residents have been evacuated from their homes by the Palisades, Eaton, and several other fires; and

WHEREAS the magnitude of these fires and the associated insurance claims are likely to create a shortage of qualified insurance adjusters;

NOW, I, RICARDO LARA, Insurance Commissioner of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 14022.5(a) of the California Insurance Code, HEREBY DECLARE AN EMERGENCY SITUATION to exist with respect to the adjustment of insurance claims arising from the wildfires.

THEREFORE, I AUTHORIZE insurers and licensed insurance adjusters to be able to utilize nonlicensed adjusters to the extent such use is reasonably necessary to respond to the losses arising out of the wildfires if each of the following three requirements are met:

1. The work performed by nonlicensed adjusters is under the active direction, control, charge, and/or management of a qualified licensed adjuster, qualified manager, or an insurer authorized to do business in California.
2. The nonlicensed adjuster register with the Insurance Commissioner within 15 days from the date on which the nonlicensed adjuster commences the claims adjusting activity in connection with the wildfires. To be registered, nonlicensed adjuster's qualified licensed adjuster, qualified manager, or insurer are to access the Emergency Declaration link available on the Department's [Independent Insurance Adjuster Registration and Certification Online Services](#). During the registration process, the nonlicensed adjusters will be sent an email from their manager or insurer with instruction to complete the required *Certification – Adjusters Not Licensed in California, Declared Emergency Situation by the Commissioner, CDI-184*. The nonlicensed adjuster's qualified licensed adjuster, qualified manager may need to re-register nonlicensed adjusters with the Insurance Commissioner, if necessary, in conformity with California Insurance Code sections 14022.5(c) and 14046. Registration is valid for a period of 180 days from the date of the registration.
3. All claims adjusters, whether California-licensed or not, who are assigned to wildfire claims must be properly trained on the California Unfair Practices Act, the Fair Claims Settlement Practices Regulations, and all laws relating to property and casualty insurance claims handling.

Any qualified licensed adjuster, qualified manager, or insurer authorized to do business in California who actively directs, controls, charges, and/or manages a nonlicensed adjuster may be held liable and may be subject to civil penalties for any actions associated with this emergency situation by a nonlicensed adjuster deemed in violation of the California Unfair Practices Act, the Fair Claims Settlement Practices Regulations, and any laws relating to property and casualty insurance claims handling.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused my official seal to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

  
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RICARDO LARA  
Insurance Commissioner

IRH-SFG-155-02