

Calif. homeowners struggle to get fire insurance

By Johnathan J. Cooper, AP

California's top insurance regulator said Thursday that insurers are increasingly refusing to offer homeowner's policies in areas prone to wildfire – a problem that's likely to get worse as companies respond to last year's devastating blazes.

Insurers in 2016 refused to renew more than 10,000 policies in the 24 counties most prone to wildfires, according to a report issued by Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. That was up 15 percent from the prior year, when fires in Lake and Calaveras counties destroyed more than 3,000 buildings and became some of the most destructive in state history.

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