

FIRE FACT SHEET

1. What do we know about the cause of all of these fires throughout Los Angeles?

Right now, there is limited public information about the cause of these fires. The heroes on the front lines are working hard to put out the fires and keep people safe – that is their number one priority. There are also ongoing investigations into the cause of these fires that can take months or years to sort out.

2. Why did you file a lawsuit on the Eaton Fire?

We hired a team of private fire investigators and other experts that have worked with us on every fire litigation we've been a part of since the 2017 wildfires in Northern California. Based on the information we have gathered so far, we believe we have a good faith basis and sufficient evidence to file a lawsuit against Southern California Edison. We are alleging their electrical infrastructure started this fire.

The litigation process involves a substantial amount of discovery. Edison is entitled to its defense and they have excellent lawyers that will represent the company's interests. Through the litigation process, we will uncover additional evidence and information that will help better assess whether Edison is ultimately responsible for the fire.

At this time, we are still investigating and evaluating the many other fires throughout Los Angeles and will continue to do so.

3. What should people who have lost homes in these fires do?

Our hearts go out to the thousands of families displaced by the Los Angeles complex of fires. First and foremost, they should find shelter for themselves. If they are homeowners, they should work with their insurance companies to prepare their claims and see if they have coverage for Alternate Living Expenses. This is a coverage that will help pay for housing while they are displaced. They should also document any losses to the extent they can when they're allowed back to their homes.

It's also a good idea to see if they qualify for FEMA assistance given that this has been declared as a disaster. Keep records of all disaster-related expenses and insurance claims. With smart phones, it's a good idea to just take pictures of everything.

Where there is a responsible party like a utility company for a fire, individuals have filed lawsuits against them. This is to recover uninsured or underinsured losses, claims for personal injuries or emotional distress, and in some very tragic instances, wrongful deaths.

People who were renting their homes can also seek out the above assistance.

4. How long will it take to recover?

This is not a short process and it can take several years to recover. The demand on construction and rebuilding is going to be extremely high. When there are catastrophic events like this, it truly takes a community effort and we're hopeful that people can get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

ADVERTISEMENT

The first step often involves the Army Corps of Engineers and/or private companies clearing debris. That process can take some time, but the Army Corps – unfortunately – has a lot of experience with wildfires in California.

Please be careful when going through debris. Fires of this magnitude burn extremely hot, and the debris from things like electronic devices, plastics, and other materials can be hazardous.

5. Who can get paid? Why not me?

Lawsuits are never guaranteed outcomes. Moreover, it is still extremely early in the investigative phase. We have a good faith basis to file a lawsuit against Edison at this early juncture, but the litigation process will need to play out. The evidence in Eaton Fire is the one we currently believe is strongest and warrants a civil action being filed.

Anyone that sustained physical injuries, property damage, or certain types of losses to your business should consult a lawyer. The lawyers can explain what the litigation process looks like.

6. How much can I get?

This assumes we can prove liability or at least get to a place where Edison believes it has potential exposure to engage in confidential settlement discussions. It is far too early to think this way, and there are absolutely no guarantees about what you can get.

The best advice we can give you is to document your losses as best as you can, gather any

photographs or videos that support your losses, work with your insurance company, and if you are interested, consult a lawyer to explore what uninsured losses you might be able to claim.

7. How much is this going to cost me?

There is no financial obligation or risk of hiring us. We work on a contingency, meaning you don't pay anything unless we recover money for you. We advance all costs ourselves. We will never ask you to pay money out-of-pocket to us. Further, you are not responsible for expenses unless or until we recover money for you.

8. When can I expect a return?

Litigation can be a lengthy process. First and foremost, we need to litigate the case to a place where we believe we can prove Edison's liability. We do not control if or when Edison wants to engage in settlement discussions. All of this is dependent on the strength of the liability case we are able to prove as lawyers. Some cases settle in less than one year, and others can take more than 4 years to resolve. It is nearly impossible to predict.

9. Why should I hire you?

Our law firms have litigated virtually every wildfire case in California where a utility was suspected to have involvement since 2015. In the course of that, we have recovered over \$1.65 billion in wildfire cases, alone. We have represented thousands of families that have suffered losses in addition to public entities.

ADVERTISEMENT

**WILDFIRE
RECOVERY
ATTORNEYS**