

Many Struggle to Rebuild After Last Year's Wildfires

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Victims of last October's wildfires gathered for a news conference in Rancho Bernardo on Wednesday, asking for help from Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner.

Many say they have not resolved their claims with their insurance companies because they were grossly underinsured.

"He needs to follow through on his promise to all of us who are underinsured through no fault of their own," demands Stephen Stout. Others say they have received low building estimates and are being required to provide detailed lists of everything that was lost.

"I've got news for you," said one fire victim. "When you have a total loss, you're not trying to remember what was lost. You're trying to forget it."

A representative from Poizner's office responded in a statement:

"What people are bringing up today is tactics. While we reserve the right to use enforcement actions in the future, our current strategy is a proven success. As we move forward, we will continue to evaluate our strategy and alter it should the circumstances warrant it."