



# CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH EXAMINATION, LICENSURE, AND REGULATION

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GOVERNOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  
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## **CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF WILDFIRES IN EL DORADO AND SISKIYOU COUNTIES**

Victims of the wildfires in El Dorado and Siskiyou counties should use caution when planning the rebuilding of their homes or businesses, the California Architects Board (Board) advised today. Executive Officer Doug McCauley offers the following rebuilding tips:

### **Unlicensed Practice**

Only persons licensed by the Board may call themselves architects and provide architectural services. When responding to advertisements or solicitations offering architectural services, victims of the wildfires should verify whether the person offering services has a valid license.

"We strongly recommend visiting the Board's website ([cab.ca.gov](http://cab.ca.gov)) to verify whether an individual is licensed and to review important consumer-related information," says Mr. McCauley.

Under California law, any unlicensed person who offers and/or provides architectural services for repair to a structure damaged by a natural disaster which has been declared a state of emergency by either the President or Governor, shall be punished by a fine of up to \$10,000 or by imprisonment for up to three years.

### **Release of Copy of Plans**

An architect or other person who has prepared the plans used for the construction or remodeling of the property must release a copy of the plans to the homeowner or a homeowner's insurer, or a duly authorized agent of either, upon request. The plans may only be used for verifying the amount of damage for insurance purposes. The plans cannot be used to rebuild any part of the property without prior written consent of the architect or other person who prepared the plans. If the architect of record is unavailable, a homeowner should contact the local building department to inquire if they have a copy of the plans on file. (Business and Professions Code Section 5536.3)

### **Consumer Information**

The Board's [Consumer's Guide to Hiring an Architect](#) is available at [cab.ca.gov](http://cab.ca.gov) and outlines information on how to find and hire an architect, lists steps to take in negotiating a contract, and offers general suggestions to assist in the planning process.

To obtain additional information, the Board can also be reached at (800) 991-2223.