

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WARNS MONTEREY COUNTY RESIDENTS OF POTENTIAL POST DISASTER SCAMMERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California has been hit hard this year by wildfires causing millions of dollars in property damage. Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo is urging people who have suffered losses due to the Sobranes and Chimney fires to be vigilant of those who will try and take advantage of the misfortune of others.

In a time of disaster while people are vulnerable and trying to cope with these natural disasters, they are at high risk of becoming targets of various scams such as violations of contractors' license laws, inflated prices for repair work, insurance scams, charity fraud and other offenses. As an example, county businesses have received fraudulent invoices for inspecting fire extinguishers. The person involved has been arrested by Santa Barbara County authorities.

For information on how to avoid becoming a victim of post disaster scams and for important phone numbers for victims, please download our "Post Disaster Awareness" brochure by visiting our website (www.co.monterey.ca.us/da). Brochures are also available at public libraries, chamber of commerce locations, and County Building and Planning Departments.

If you have concerns or questions regarding the services you are seeking or offered, please contact the Monterey County District Attorney's Office at 831-647-7770 or your local law enforcement agency.