



Lansner on Real Estate

[Can fires rekindle slumping housing?](#)

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Will the wildfires that created instant demand for shelter from the newly homeless, and fresh business for the fixers and rebuilders, make a big difference in the California's gloomy real estate outlook? Here's what a few sharp minds around the region think:

Alan Nevin, economist for California Building Industry Association ... “Fairly insignificant impact, except for resale activity in the areas where the homes have been burned or severely damaged (assuming that the buyers will want to stay in their same school districts.) Most of the homes that burned are in very good school districts.”

Economist Chris Thornberg at Beacon Economics ... “All these so called experts are running around saying the rebuilding will help the housing market. Bull! Permits are down about 100,000 per year right now and still falling. The next five years will see half a million fewer units built than the last 5 years. 1500 rebuilds? Drop it the bucket.”

Lender and talk-show host Norm Bour ... “The fire will create a huge demand for supplies, workers and related materials, but the collective number of homes affected will probably have little impact on prices and volume.”

Bond trader Ryan Kelly at Spectrum Management ... “Not much. Not enough burnt houses.”