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Los Angeles wildfires lead to sky-high rents - 16th January 2024

### Level 0

Landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires. Tens of thousands of people need a house. However, some landlords increased their rents by thousands of dollars. Some rents doubled. Making money in a crisis is called price gouging. California introduced a law against price-gouging last week.

The wildfires shocked America. Many of LA's most exclusive areas have gone. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house. She wrote: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Beyonce's mother also lost her house. She wrote: "It was my favourite place. Now it is gone." Many people say climate change caused the fires.

## Level 1

Some landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires. Tens of thousands of people have nowhere to live. They need a house to rent. However, some landlords are increasing their rents by thousands of dollars. Some L.A. rents doubled this week. Making a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. California's governor introduced a price-gouging law last week. This was after he declared a state of emergency.

The wildfires shocked America. Large parts of some of LA's most exclusive areas have gone. Many celebrities lost their houses. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house. She wrote: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Beyonce's mother also lost her house. She wrote: "It was my favourite place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. Little rain left Los Angeles very dry. The risk of wildfires is high.

### Level 2

Some landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed thousands of homes. Tens of thousands of L.A. residents now have nowhere to live. They are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers say some rents in L.A. have doubled after the wildfires began. Making a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. The California governor introduced a price-gouging law on January the 7th. This was after he declared a state of emergency.

The wildfires shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires destroyed large parts of some of LA's most exclusive areas. Many celebrities lost their beachfront houses. Actress Paris Hilton lost her house in upmarket Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." The mother of Beyonce also lost her house. She wrote: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. Little rain left Los Angeles very dry. The risk of wildfires is high.

## Level 3

There are reports that landlords in Los Angeles are profiting from the wildfires that have destroyed many communities and thousands of homes. Many people lost their homes in the fires. They now have nowhere to live. Tens of thousands of people are trying to find a house to rent. However, some landlords are suddenly raising their rents by thousands of dollars. Local newspapers are reporting that some rents in L.A. have doubled since the wildfires began. Trying to make a profit in a crisis is called price gouging. California Governor Gavin Newsom said he would introduce price-gouging laws on January the 7th. This was after he declared a state of emergency.

The wildfires have shocked America. More than 105,000 people had to leave their homes. The fires have destroyed large parts of some of the most exclusive areas of Los Angeles. Many celebrities have lost their beachfront properties. Model, singer and actress Paris Hilton lost her house in the upmarket area of Malibu. She wrote on social media: "It feels like my heart has shattered into a million pieces." Tina Knowles, the mother of Beyonce, also lost her house. She wrote on Instagram: "It was my favourite place, my sanctuary, my sacred happy place. Now it is gone." Many people are blaming climate change for the fires. A lack of rain has left Los Angeles unusually dry. The risk of wildfires is high.