



# *Calaveras County*

## *Environmental Management Agency*

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### **Management of Calaveras County Wildfire Debris**

Debris and ash from residential fire may be hazardous. Ash and debris from burned buildings and homes can contain toxic substances due to the presence of synthetic and hazardous materials. Many building materials may contain asbestos and older buildings often contain lead and other heavy metals which are toxic. Household hazardous waste such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, and other chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire. These materials can become concentrated in ash and soil following a fire. Exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects, and may potentially cause long-term public health and environmental impacts. Uncontrolled hazardous materials and debris pose significant threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies.

It is critical to contain building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation due to asbestos and the structural ash due to heavy metals. To ensure safety to workers, the public, and the environment, certain protocols should be followed during a wildfire disaster when removing structural ash and debris from a fire. Calaveras County is currently offering **two ways** to manage the debris and ash from the wildfire disaster.

1. Owners may elect to **participate** in a County and State debris removal program. Property with destroyed structure(s) from a wildfire are being offered a clean-up and debris removal service conducted by specialized work crews, contracted and managed by county and state waste specialists. This program is being paid for with State of California disaster assistance funds and portions of property owner's insurance related to debris removal. Owners must sign up for this program by completing a Right-of-Entry form to allow access to their property to complete the removal work. Removal work in this program will be completed using the 2015 Debris Removal Operations Plan for the Butte Fire, Calaveras County.
2. If owners elect **not to participate** in the County and State sponsored debris removal program. Property owners are expected to have their property cleaned up with the burn debris removed either on their own or with their own qualified contractor. A "Denial of Right-to-Entry" form must be completed by the property owner. Due to the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer, the work must be completed pursuant to standards set forth by the County and State. These standards are established to ensure protection of public health. Documentation on adequate cleanup and proper disposal will be required. Disaster funding will not be able to reimburse for this work. A building permit will not be issued until a certification of removal of hazardous waste and clean-up is issued by the Environmental Health Department.

Owners who elect **not to participate** in the County and State clean-up program and **do not accomplish** an adequate clean-up through the "Self-Certification" process, Calaveras County will have the destroyed structure inspected and identified as a public nuisance. Disaster funding is not available to property owners for their efforts in a nuisance abatement action. In addition any County expenses for contract work, staff time and administration is subject to cost recovery with a lien recorded on the property deed should expenses not be reimbursed.

The owner or contractor will submit a debris removal application and workplan to the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department (Department). **The Workplan shall include, and not to be limited to the following items listed in this document: Site Description, Hazardous Waste Removal Plan, Notification Requirements, and all Operational Controls and Material Disposal Plan.**

Once the Workplan is submitted and ***accepted*** by the Department, the owner or contractor may begin the removal process. Cleanup protocols and specifications required in the workplan are outlined below. When cleanup work is completed, and soil testing shows that clean-up goals have been met, the owner must submit a self-certification form (attached) to the Department.

### **Site Description**

The workplan must include a general description of the site cleanup to be conducted. The Department will confirm the description with all site assessments and documentation completed previously. Please provide a description of the structures, improvements, debris areas, and other site features to be addressed through this site cleanup effort. Include locations of septic and leech fields and well(s) or other water sources. Measure and record foundation area(s). Identify any property-specific hazards, such as swimming pools, mine shafts, propane tanks, etc. A detailed site map must be provided as an attachment.

### **Hazardous Waste, Asbestos, and Household Hazardous Waste**

This property must be screened and cleared of hazardous waste, asbestos, and household hazardous waste, and any wastes identified must be removed appropriately. Individuals may dispose of Household Hazardous Wastes at the Rock Creek Landfill, please call (209) 754-6403 to make an appointment. Hazardous wastes must be collected, transported, and disposed of by a certified Hazardous Materials Contractor or by the homeowner. Asbestos must be managed by an asbestos abatement contractor. All hazardous wastes and safety risks must be removed and mitigated prior to beginning ash and burn debris cleanup. If hazardous wastes were identified and disposed of, a copy of the manifest documenting proper disposal must be provided as an attachment. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) may have completed removal of hazardous wastes under the County/CalRecycle Debris Removal Program. If so, please note this on the self-certification form and the County will verify waste assessment and removal through the documentation provided to the County by DTSC.

For a description of household hazardous and hazardous wastes, please visit [www.calaverasrecycles.org/HazardousWaste%28HHW%29.aspx](http://www.calaverasrecycles.org/HazardousWaste%28HHW%29.aspx) or call Calaveras County Department of Public Works, Integrated Waste Management, at (209) 754-6403.

### **Notifications Requirements:**

- Underground Services Alert (USA) at least 48 hours prior to any excavation. <http://usanorth811.org/homeowners/>
- CARB's Asbestos NESHP Program of any demolition of a partially destroyed structure, within one working day.
- The local power provider prior to removal of any damaged structure to ensure the electrical power has been shut off.
- Contact all local utilities, if applicable, and acquire their shut off plans for utilities at the destroyed structures.

## **Operational Controls**

### **Site Safety**

All operations must be conducted to protect the health and safety of all personnel on site, consistent with CalOSHA Standards. If a private property owner is completing the removal efforts, please follow the CalOSHA guidelines to protect yourself. Install new address signs, if needed.

### **Hazardous Trees**

Any trees determined by a licensed arborist to pose a risk from fall or branch loss to the area in which removal activities will occur must be removed by a licensed tree removal contractor prior to work commencing (see the Cal Fire Tree Removal handout for licensed/registered foresters).

### **Dust Control**

The contractors shall provide water or an approved dust palliative, or both, to prevent dust nuisance at each site. Dust resulting from performance of the work shall be controlled at all times.

- Each area of ash and debris to be removed shall be pre-watered 48 to 72 hours in advance of the removal. Hoses with a fine spray nozzle are recommended. The water shall be applied in a manner that does not generate runoff.
- All disposal and recycling loads shall be wetted down before leaving the site.
- All disposal and recycling loads, not including ash, shall be covered with a tarp; this includes metal debris.
- Ash and debris loads must be placed in a plastic liner and seal (burrito-wrapped) or double bagged.
- Concrete loads and metals loads are exempt from being tarped provided the waste is fully wetted prior to leaving to remove any ash that may become airborne. If concrete loads generate dust, then the loads must be wetted and covered.
- All visibly dry disturbed soil surface areas of operation shall be watered to minimize dust emissions, during performance of work.
- Reduce speeds when driving on unpaved roadways.
- Implement procedures to prevent or minimize dirt, soil, or ash contaminating roadways, neighboring parcels, or creating an airborne health hazard. The use of blower devices, or dry rotary brushes or brooms, for removal of carryout and track out on public roads is expressly prohibited.

### **Vehicle and Roadway Safety**

If the removal activities on the property owner's parcel will create a roadway blockage or hinder traffic patterns, the property owner or contractor is responsible for obtaining any required local permits and post all warning signs as required by local ordinances. As there are may be many contractors that are actively working on remediation efforts in the burn area, it is in each property owner's best interest to identify removal and remediation efforts in adjacent areas that could impact the ability to locate, park, or transport out equipment and materials.

### **Materials**

All hazardous waste shall be removed prior to any other material removal. Obtain and provide the County with copies of all waste disposal receipts at the time self-certification is requested.

## **Metal Recycling**

Contractors, metal recycling contractors and/or owners are encouraged to recycle as much metal as possible. The workplan must provide an estimate of metal recycled from the property. This estimate must document the nature and types of metals, such as passenger vehicle, recreational vehicles, farm equipment, metal waste, etc. Metal can be taken to the Rock Creek Solid Waste Facility in Milton, CA or Valley Springs Recycling in Valley Springs, CA or other licensed metal recycling facilities. The intended disposal facility must be identified in the workplan and final documentation of recycling must be included in the final request for self-certification. Check with DMV and homeowner before removing vehicles.

## **Solid Waste/Disposal**

Debris waste must be burrito-wrapped or otherwise covered to insure no fugitive dust is released. Lined debris bins may be ordered through Cal-Waste. [www.cal-waste.com](http://www.cal-waste.com)

Residents and small businesses may self-haul to the following locations:

- Foothill Sanitary Landfill at:  
6484 N. Waverly Road  
(8 miles East of Linden)  
(209) 887-3969
- North County Recycling Center & Sanitary Landfill  
17720 E. Harney Lane  
Lodi, CA 95240  
(209) 887-3868

## **Inert Waste (concrete and masonry)**

Inert debris includes concrete from foundations, building slabs, pathways and driveways, cured asphalt, ceramics, plaster and brick. Clean concrete and masonry may be taken to the following location for crushing and reuse: Carson Hill Rock Products 4795 Highway 49, Angels Camp, CA 95222 (209) 736-5959.

## **Ash Disposal**

Once all of the solid waste has been removed from the lot, the remaining ash is required to be disposed of into a Class 2 lined landfill.

- Forward landfill located at 1145 W. Charter Way in Stockton, CA will take ash from commercial haulers (209) 466-4482
- Potrero Hills Landfill located at 3675 Potrero Hills Lane in Suisun, CA will accept ash from commercial and private haulers (707) 429-9600

Loads are required to be damp and covered for transport. Property owners or contractors should contact landfill operator prior to hauling waste to assure its acceptance.

Proof of Asbestos and Hazardous Waste removal may be requested at the gatehouse.

## Green Waste

Green waste will be accepted at The Rock Creek Solid Waste Facility and Transfer Stations. Debris bins may be ordered through Cal-Waste at (209) 795-1532 [www.cal-waste.com](http://www.cal-waste.com)

**Well Safety** - Contact Environmental Health at (209) 754-6399.

**Septic System** - Contact Onsite Wastewater at (209) 754-6400.

## Testing Certification

At the conclusion of the debris removal, soil shall be sampled and analyzed to verify that cleanup standards have been met.

Soil samples shall be collected from the impacted area. Sample collection shall be performed by a California Professional Geologist, Registered Civil Engineer or other registered professional. A report of analytical results shall be prepared by the contractor and a copy provided to the Calaveras County Environmental Health.

Confirmation samples will be collected from the impacted area in native soil, at random locations. The selection of the random samples shall be based on a 10 by 10 foot grid overlay of the impacted area with the number of samples to be collected based on the square footage of the area impacted as follows (in square feet):

(1)	< 2000 sf	2 samples
(2)	2001-3000 sf	3 samples
(3)	3001-4000 sf	4 samples
(4)	> 4000 sf	1 sample per 1000 additional square feet or fraction thereof

Samples are to be analyzed by a California State Certified Laboratory for heavy metals (California Assessment Manual (CAM) 17 metals TTLC procedures, EPA Method 6010B). Samples must meet a cleanup goal as established by the CalRecycle Debris Removal Operations Plan.

If any of the sampling results exceeds the cleanup goals, then 2-6 inches of soil shall be removed and sampling redone until cleanup goals are met. The contaminated soil shall be treated as ash (above). A list of certified labs is attached.

## Erosion Control

Follow best management erosion control practices to the satisfaction of the County of Calaveras Director of Public Works (209) 754-6402.

*The information contained in this guidance document is based upon statutes and regulations and is intended to provide a basic overview to help achieve compliance. This document does not replace or supersede relevant statutes and regulations and is not intended as legal advice. All interested parties should monitor changes to relevant statutes and regulations for updates.*