



Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division

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River Fire Cleanup Process Summary

There are several steps and owner choices involved in the River Fire property cleanup process. This summary is intended to give property owners an overview of the required cleanup steps and the choices they may have to make during the process. If you have additional questions regarding the River Fire property cleanup, please go to <https://www.placer.ca.gov/FireRecovery>

Phase I

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the US Environmental Protection Agency, through their contractors, are authorized to access your property to remove hazardous household waste (e.g., propane tanks, compressed gas cylinders, solvents, etc.). **You do not have to take any action for Phase I of the cleanup process.** When Phase I is completed for your property, a marker will be placed on your property indicating Phase I is complete. You may also check the status of Phase I by emailing environmentalhealth@placer.ca.gov, please provide your APN with your inquiry.

Phase II

Please note that Phase II cleanup is required for properties where a qualifying structure of 120 square feet or more has been destroyed by the River Fire. If your property did **not** include a qualifying structure as outlined in the Government (Cal OES) Program (Phase II) you are not required to complete the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application. If this describes your property, contact Placer County Environmental Health to obtain a certificate allowing disposal of fire debris at Western Regional Landfill.

Property owners have two options for Phase II of the cleanup process.

Property owners may not perform Phase II cleanup themselves – owners are required to engage in the Cal OES Program **or** hire properly licensed and certified contractors and consultants to complete cleanup in the Alternative Program. Owners that meet the same qualifications listed for contractors or consultants may perform the work they are qualified to do on the property they own as part of their work plan under the Alternative Program.

1. Government Sponsored Debris Removal Program (Government or Cal OES Program)	
Right of Entry Permit	Property owner(s) fill out and execute the Right of Entry permit and provide specific instructions for Cal OES Program and/or its contractor for the work plan. <u>All debris removal activities under the Cal OES Program will be provided at no direct cost to the property owner(s).</u>
Asbestos Inspection and Removal	Cal OES and/or its contractor tests properties for asbestos and removes large obvious chunks of asbestos material.
Site Documentation	Cal OES and/or its contractor documents the state of the property before removal of debris, including details such as property size, units in an apartment building, number of cars, etc.
Ash and Debris Cleanup	Cal OES and/or its contractors remove all debris and ash and scrape the lot clean. <u>Cal OES and/or its contractor will contact owners before this step occurs.</u>
Hazardous Tree Removal	Cal OES and/or its contractor remove hazardous trees on the property that may compromise the safety of crews working on the site or hinder the debris clean-up process.
Erosion Control	Cal OES and/or its contractor implements erosion control measures as needed for each cleaned property.

2. Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program (Alternative Program)	
Choose the right Contractor	Property owners are required to choose a contractor with the proper California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) licensing and certifications to perform the ash and debris cleanup work, including hazardous material and asbestos removal. The CSLB website has information to assist property owners with requirements: http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesandPublications/DebrisRemovalFacts.pdf You can verify a contractor's licensing at the CSLB website: https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx <u>In addition to a contractor, fire debris removal will require the support of Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC) as well as an Environmental Consultant.</u> It is recommended that property owners verify that contractors and consultants have adequate insurance and that the owner is included as an additional insured under the contractor's insurance policy for the cleanup work.

Application/work plan	Property owners are required to work with their contractor to prepare a work plan for the Alternative Program using the guidelines following this summary. Submit the prepared plan to 3091 County Center Dr. Suite 180, Auburn, CA 95603 or email application to environmentalhealth@placer.ca.gov
Site Preparation/ Documentation	Property owners, with their contractor, are required to document, photograph and measure the property and notify utilities as described more fully below.
Ash and Debris Cleanup	Property owners, through their contractor, are required to clean the property of ash and debris and remove asbestos and/or hazardous waste to Cal OES Program Standards. Property owners are required to take dust prevention measures, grade soil, test soil samples, remove appliances and take erosion control measures. The requirements are described more fully in the Guidelines following this Summary.
Foundation Removal or Retention	Property owners, through their contractor, are required to remove the structural foundation or provide a letter from a licensed Civil or Structural Engineer certifying that the foundation is suitable for rebuilding, with an explanation and supporting evidence. The decision as to whether the explanation is adequate is in the sole discretion of the Building Official.
Phase II Cleanup Certification	Following completion of the cleanup work, property owners, with their contractor, are required to submit a final report to Placer County Environmental Health for review. Environmental Health will issue an Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Cleanup Completion Certificate if the cleanup has met the Alternative Program standards. The decision as to whether the cleanup has met the Alternative Program standards is in the sole discretion Placer County Environmental Health.

If you or your contractor discover possible human remains at any time during Phase II, please stop the cleanup process immediately and call the Placer County Sheriff's Office at (530) 889-7800.

MANAGEMENT OF RIVER FIRE DEBRIS

To ensure safety of workers, the public, and the environment, property owners must follow certain protocols after a wildfire disaster when removing structural ash and debris. There are **two ways** to manage the debris and ash resulting from the wildfire disaster. A residential property owner may elect to participate in the Cal OES Sponsored Debris Removal Program or may elect to complete the property remediation and debris removal by hiring private contractors and consultants to perform the cleanup work (Alternative Program).

Owners Who Choose Not to Participate in the Cal OES Program

If property owners elect not to participate in the Cal OES Program, they are still required to remediate the property and remove the burn debris **at their own expense**, comply with all applicable requirements, and do so in a timely manner. The property owners will **not** be reimbursed with public funds for the remediation and debris removal. The property owners shall complete the remediation through a licensed contractor with proper certifications according to the requirements of the California Contractors State License Board. The Placer County Local Health Officer has issued a Declaration of Health Emergency. As a result, the cleanup work must be done safely and in a way that protects both public health and the environment. Public funds will not be used to reimburse property owners for any portion of the remediation and debris removal process, including but not limited to pre-cleanup site preparation, hazardous waste and asbestos survey and remediation, ash and debris removal, foundation removal or survey, soil investigation and remediation and erosion control.

Property owners opting out of the Cal OES Program must submit the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application (Alternative Program Application) and work plan to Placer County Environmental Health for approval prior to commencing debris removal. A work plan must be submitted and approved by Environmental Health prior to the commencement of work. After implementation of the approved work plan, the owner must submit a certification showing that all work has been completed as specified. The work must be completed pursuant to standards set forth by the State and local jurisdictions. These standards are established to ensure protection of public health and are the same standards applicable to the Cal OES Program. Property owners are required to submit documentation verifying adequate cleanup and proper disposal of debris. Property owners shall review all requirements thoroughly before planning or pursuing their own debris removal. Property owners will not be allowed to rebuild on their property until the County has issued a certification of completion of the Alternative Program.

A summary of the protocols and requirements is below:

Cleanup Operations	Cleanup Protocols
	<p>Any authorized official of the County may, upon presentation of proper credentials, enter such property as necessary to inspect any provision of the approved work plan and verify compliance with all state and local debris removal requirements. A stop work order will be issued if unapproved deviation from the approved work plan is observed.</p>
<p>Work Plan</p>	<p>Contractor must create a work plan that provides for site protocols listed below including (but not limited to) testing and analysis, hazardous waste and asbestos removal, debris removal, erosion control, soil grading and confirmation sampling. Areas with naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) may have additional requirements to comply with State regulations, including notifying the local air district and submitting a formal NOA Dust Mitigation Plan.</p>
<p>Site preparation/ documentation</p>	<p>Contractor must measure, record and photograph foundation and cleanup area (square footage of ash footprint) Contractor must notify appropriate entities of cleanup, such as local utilities and USA Underground.</p>
<p>Application Process</p>	<p>Property owner and/or contractor must submit the Alternative Program Application and work plan to Placer County Environmental Health.</p>
<p>Asbestos Assessment and Removal</p>	<p>Contractor or Property owner shall hire a Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC) to perform asbestos testing at the property and hire a licensed contractor with a certificate for asbestos abatement (Certified Asbestos Contractor) to properly remove and dispose of any remaining asbestos. During Phase I, DTSC and/or its contractor may not remove all asbestos from the property. DTSC and/or its contractor will remove asbestos-containing materials which are easily identifiable and removable. Materials that are believed to be asbestos-containing which are not removed will be marked by DTSC and/or its contractor. Asbestos-containing materials shall be</p>

Cleanup Operations	Cleanup Protocols
	<p>properly assessed and removed by a Certified Asbestos Contractor.</p> <p>The CAC will evaluate each property for suspect asbestos containing material.</p> <p>As chimneys are considered a free-standing structure, a full asbestos survey is required. Each standing chimney on a property will be knocked down using one to two water streams to abate potential dust and exposures. The chimney shall be pre-wetted along with the fall zone. Once the chimney is safely on the ground, the CAC shall visually observe the interior of the chimney flue for suspect materials. If no suspected asbestos materials are identified, then the debris removal may commence. If asbestos is discovered on the property, the CAC must submit the results of the asbestos survey including laboratory results and documentation of proper asbestos removal and disposal to Placer County Environmental Health in order to obtain authorization to dispose of the remaining ash and debris at a properly permitted landfill such as Western Regional Landfill.</p>
Hazardous Waste Removal	<p>Contractor or Property owner must take all reasonable precautions required to remove and properly dispose of any remaining hazardous waste. During Phase I, DTSC and their contractors will remove any hazardous materials and hazardous waste that they find during their assessment, but may not find all hazardous waste that is present.</p> <p>The Environmental Consultant is required to submit results of the hazardous waste survey and, if applicable, documentation of proper hazardous waste removal and disposal to Environmental Health in order to obtain authorization to dispose of the remaining ash and debris at a properly permitted landfill such as Western Regional Landfill.</p>
Debris and Ash Removal	<p>Contractor is required to remove ash and debris, metals and concrete from site and dispose of properly. Contractor should recycle metals and concrete when possible. Concrete brought to Western Regional Landfill must not be over 2 inches in</p>

Cleanup Operations	Cleanup Protocols
	<p>dimension and may have exposed rebar over 5 inches. Concrete and metal must be generally free of ash and debris.</p> <p>Contractor may dispose of waste at Western Regional Landfill or other properly permitted landfills.</p> <p>Contractor must present a clearance from Placer County Environmental Health at the scale house to allow for disposal.</p> <p>Landfill disposal fees apply.</p>
Air Monitoring	<p>Fugitive Dust – Dust is a significant concern and contractor is required to take adequate dust control measures at all times, such as water applied to burn ash materials, most importantly during owner or contractor disturbance and loading. Contractor is required to properly contain fire debris and ash during transport to prevent escape.</p> <p>Contractor is required to visually monitor the cleanup site for fugitive dust.</p> <p>If recommended by a Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC), the contractor shall monitor the air at the site for asbestos during debris removal activities.</p> <p>If required, contractor must provide air monitoring results at final certification</p>
Foundations	<p>Contractor is required to completely remove and dispose of foundation; or</p> <p>Submit a letter from a Licensed Civil or Structural Engineer certifying the foundation is acceptable for rebuild. The letter shall certify structural reasons for the decision and include process and procedure used to reach the conclusion.</p>
Soil Grading	<p>There is a risk of potential soil contamination from the fire debris and ash. As a result, after the ash and debris are removed from the property to a level of visually clean, the contractor is required to remove an additional 3 to 6 inches of soil from the impacted area after the burn ash and debris is removed to a level of visually clean. This soil can be disposed of at a properly permitted landfill such as Western Regional Landfill and will require the asbestos/hazardous waste certification from Placer County Environmental Health. Care shall be taken during</p>

Cleanup Operations	Cleanup Protocols
	transport of the material, as with the fire debris and ash, to prevent this material from blowing out of the transport vessel during transport, including covering the load with a tarp, and using reduced speeds on unpaved roadways. See Appendix E for additional precautions.
Confirmation Sampling	After removing 3 to 6 inches of soil as part of the soil grading work described above, the certified hazmat contractor or qualified environmental health consultant shall collect soil samples from a depth of 0 to 3 inches for confirmation sampling. Results must be at or below cleanup goals as established. Confirmation sampling shall be conducted by a qualified environmental consultant, professional engineer, or professional geologist with experience in soil investigations, and is to be conducted after fire- related debris and 3 to 6 inches of soil have been removed from the property.
Appliance and Vehicle Recycling	Appliances and vehicles shall be handled properly to meet the requirements of metals recycling facilities. Any remaining hazardous materials, such as car batteries, shall be managed properly. Vehicle Identification numbers shall be documented as outlined by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and provided to the salvage company.
Erosion Control	Contractor is required to implement and maintain adequate erosion control measures at the end of the debris removal process.

Owners Who Fail to Adequately Remove Debris from Their Property

Due to the dangers to the public health and environment, if property owners choose not to participate in the Cal OES Program and also do not complete an adequate cleanup through the Alternative Program, they may be subject to enforcement actions. Such actions may include, but not be limited to, hazard removal and/or relocation, cleanup, site evaluation, soil testing, and/or chemical analysis. **All expenses incurred for such inspection and mitigation, including but not limited to, abatement costs, expenses, and attorney’s fees, are subject to full cost recovery from the owner with a lien recorded on the property.**

Confirmation Sampling

Following the removal of ash, debris, hazardous waste and asbestos and the removal of 3 to 6 inches of soil, consultants shall collect and analyze representative soil samples to determine compliance with established cleanup goals. Sampling shall be per Cal OES Program's typical operations plan sampling frequencies included below. The total number of samples to be collected is based on estimated square footage of the ash footprint as follows:

Estimated Square Footage of Ash Footprint (Decision Unit)	Number of 5-Point Composite Samples (square feet of each area sampled is total square feet of ash footprint / the number of required samples)
0-100 square feet	1
101-1,000 square feet	2
1,001-1,500 square feet	3
1,501-2,000 square feet	4
2,001-5,000 square feet	5
>5,000 square feet	ocal environmental health officials

The consultant shall collect all confirmation samples from a depth of 0-3 inches using a dedicated 4-ounce plastic scoop and mix such samples (homogenized) in a one-gallon plastic bag before placing them in 8-ounce jars. Samples shall be shipped using chain of custody documentation to a California ELAP Certified laboratory and analyzed for Title 22 Metals by EPA Method 6020 for the following metals: antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc. In addition, the consultant shall collect three background samples at a depth of 3-9 inches outside the ash footprint (minimum of 20 feet) to determine if naturally occurring levels of any metals tested are above the cleanup goals. If samples from the ash footprint are below the cleanup goals, then the lab will not test the background samples. If sample results for any metals are above the cleanup goals, but are at or below the background sample results, the consultant must explain this and why it is acceptable in the final testing report. Should the confirmation results exceed the cleanup goals and the site-specific background, the consultant must re-scrape and retest the soil. The consultant may be required to execute multiple rounds of soil scraping and sampling to achieve cleanup goals.

Soil sample proposed locations shall have the required 5-point composite samples evenly distributed throughout the structural footprint. Collecting composite samples in linear rows may make it easier to localize over-excavation if certain areas do not pass established cleanup criteria. Include dimensions of ash footprint used to calculate the area of each structure's ash foot print. Soil sampling is required beneath all burned structures on properties that have any qualified structure 120 square feet or greater, not just the residence and garage. Therefore, a small 10-foot by 10-foot shed would require one composite sample if there are additional qualified structures.

If proposing to keep a slab, the perimeter of the slab must be scraped, and composite samples collected one to two feet from the edge of the slab. A minimum of four composite samples shall be collected around the slab (one on each side) however, additional composite samples will be required based on the calculated for the square footage of the structure (i.e. a 4,500 square foot structure would require five samples). The only exception for perimeter sampling is in area of a non-porous surface (driveway, etc.) adjacent to the slab (detached garage, etc.).

Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA)

Naturally Occurring Asbestos is found in some areas within the perimeter of the River Fire area. The California Air Resources Board Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) requires notification and dust mitigation measures for work in NOA areas.

Prior to performing cleanup, owners (through their contractors) must contact Placer County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to determine if a NOA Dust Mitigation Plan is required. Sites greater than one acre in an area “most likely” to contain NOA or where NOA is present or discovered will require the submittal and approval of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan. For additional information refer to the Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan Guidance, <https://www.placerair.org/DocumentCenter/View/1226/Naturally-Occurring-Asbestos-Dust-Mitigation-Plan-ADMP-Guidance-PDF>.

Placer County APCD recommends that homeowners (through their contractors) protect themselves and others by following the asbestos dust mitigation measures in the ATCM. For more information on NOA, including whether NOA may be present on your property, contact Placer County APCD at (530) 745-2330