



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

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Health and Safety Requirements

Residents returning to fire damaged homes should take safety precautions to protect themselves and their neighbors. Hazardous materials as well as structural damage pose serious threats to your health and safety.

Personal Protection

Debris from burned buildings and homes may contain toxic substances because of the many synthetic, hazardous, and other materials present. Older buildings in particular may contain asbestos and lead. It's important to protect yourself from these materials and other fire-related dangers; for more information see the Department of Toxic Substances Control - Emergency Guidance on Wildfires.

While cleaning your property you may be exposed to potential health risks from hazardous materials. The following requirements must be adhered to:

- Wear protective glasses or goggles to protect your eyes.
- Keep material/waste wet to prevent dust becoming airborne.
- Use a well-fitted, NIOSH-certified air-purifying respirator (such as an N-95 or more protective respirator) to reduce the effects of dust and ash. These are available at hardware stores. Dust masks do not provide adequate protection.
- Wearing Tyvek suits is recommended. Minimally long sleeved shirt and long pants are required to protect your skin.
- Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects while removing debris.
- Wear rubber gloves when working with plumbing fixtures, sewer piping, and chemicals.
- Wear boots with thick (lug) soles. Avoid tennis/running shoes, whose soles can melt or be punctured.
- Change your clothes prior to getting into a car to limit the removal of residual ash and exposure to yourself and others you come in contact with.
- Shower and clean yourself immediately after completing cleanup work.

It is not recommended that you stay on the property. Hazardous exposure is increased with additional time on the site. Contamination from the ash will likely occur. If you are staying on the property the above protection requirements must be

maintained while on the property. Care must be taken to not contaminate trailers from ash on shoes, clothes, etc. Additional information on the matter will be determined next week.

Fire Debris Handling

Ash and debris must be wetted to avoid dust becoming airborne. Do not wash ash and debris into the storm drains.

Fire Debris Recycling.

Separated materials prepared for recycling must be free of ash. These include materials such as metal, wood, vegetation, concrete, etc. These materials must be disposed if they are not free of ash. A wet wipe down or light hosing is recommended. Do not wash off into the road or storm drain.

Fire Debris Transport

All loads must be wetted down and covered with tarps before leaving the property. Concrete loads are exempt from tarps provided the loads are wetted prior to leaving. If concrete loads generate dust then the loads must be wetted and tarped. Keep hazardous waste separate from other debris. See the instructions below concerning hazardous wastes.

These are the options for transporting the fire debris:

- Hire a licensed waste disposal company to haul away the debris to the landfill.
- Hire a licensed contractor to remove the debris and dispose at the landfill.
- Dispose of debris in rented dumpsters, which will be hauled to the landfill.
- Haul your own debris to the landfill. The debris must be wetted to reduce dust, and must be covered during transport. When you arrive at the landfill, please advise the attendant that you are disposing fire debris.

Fire Debris Disposal

Fire debris can be accepted at the sanitary land fill at the **Western Placer Waste Management Authority Facilities (WPWMA)**. **Notify the gate attendant that you are disposing of fire debris.**

Contact the WPWMA facility for household hazardous waste disposal at:

Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA)

Entrance on 3195 Athens Avenue

(corner of Athens Avenue and Fiddymont Road, Roseville)

Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and weekends 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(916) 543-3960

www.wpwma.com

Hazardous/Electronic Wastes

Hazardous materials such as household cleaning products, paint, batteries, gasoline, contaminated fuel and damaged fuel containers need to be properly

handled to avoid risk. During cleanup efforts, residents and workers should identify household hazardous waste (including electrical wastes) and segregate and manage them separately. Examples of household hazardous wastes include electronics, paints, automotive fluids, batteries, asbestos containing materials, mercury and compressed gas cylinders. Ensure hazardous materials are contained and do not allow any debris to enter storm drains or waterways.

- For information on how to properly dispose of household hazardous waste please call: Western Placer Waste Management Authority (916) 543-3960
- For information on how to clean up spilled hazardous materials please contact the Placer County Hazardous Materials Team at (530) 745-2300.

Placer County Environmental Health Division will be monitoring the fire impacted sites to assure compliance with all of the above measures.