



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Planning, Building & Environmental Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Household Hazardous Waste and Debris and Ash Removal
Frequently Asked Questions**

General Information

As Napa County moves into the recovery phase from the 2017 Wildfires, the safe and appropriate removal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and debris and ash is a County priority. We understand the desire to begin clean-up and move into the rebuilding phase. However, improper handling and disposal of hazardous material may impact you, the environment, and the general public health. A local public health emergency has been declared. As a result, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) must complete a mandatory inspection and removal of HHW before debris and ash can be removed.

Debris and ash from residential and commercial fires contains hazardous materials, created through the burning of synthetic and toxic materials. Household products such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, freon, lead, asbestos, and other chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that burned in the fire. These materials can be present in the ash and soil following a fire. Exposures can occur by sifting through ash and debris, causing ash to become airborne and inhaled or ingested.

The magnitude of the 2017 wildfires has greatly impacted Napa County and surrounding counties including Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino. Thousands of structures have burned creating a large scale and complex debris management challenge. The past two weeks have seen the most destructive wildfires in California history. Federal agencies have been called in to provide additional resources for responding to the disaster. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is facilitating a debris removal program in coordination with Napa County.

HHW and debris and ash removal will occur in two phases. Phase 1 is the HHW removal and Phase 2 is the debris and ash removal.

Phase 1: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Removal

What does the Phase 1 removal of HHW entail?

The Governor of California has issued an Executive Order authorizing the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and other Federal and State agencies to enter private property in Napa County to remove HHW and to conduct testing appropriate to ensure the hazards are mitigated. Phase 1 will be at **no cost** to property owners. Property owners may also engage a HAZWOPER certified contractor to remove HHW at their own cost. However, USEPA will conduct an inspection of all property even if property owners have already privately engaged in HHW removal. USEPA will begin inspections the week of October 23, 2017.

Phase 2: Debris and Ash Removal

What does Phase 2 entail and what are my options?

Phase 2 is the removal of debris and ash from a property. There are two options for debris and ash removal: 1) the State's Debris and Ash Removal Program; and 2) Privately completed debris and ash removal. Property owners must decide whether to participate in the State's Debris and Ash Removal Program or privately complete their debris and ash removal.

State Debris and Ash Removal Program

How can I participate in the State's Debris and Ash Removal Program? What does it cost?

This program is being managed by CalOES and the work will be conducted locally by the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). There is **no cost** to residential property owners, but owners are required to assign any insurance proceeds related to the cost of wildfire debris removal to the County. Property owners who do not have debris removal insurance coverage are also eligible to participate in this **no-cost** debris removal program. Property owners must submit a Right of Entry (ROE) form to the County in order for this work to be completed. ROE forms must be submitted to the County no later than **Thursday, November 9, 2017**.

What is a Right of Entry (ROE) Form?

The ROE form grants the County, State of California and the Federal government the right to enter your property for the purpose of inspecting, testing materials, removing and clearing all residential structural debris, waste, and other materials. CalOES cannot begin Phase 2 work on your property until this document is signed. The right of entry is not permanent and will terminate when removal work is complete. The ROE form can be obtained online at:

<http://www.countyofnapa.org/FireDebrisandHazardousWasteCleanUp/>

Who do I call with questions about the ROE?

For information regarding the ROE, private debris and ash removal requirements, and rebuilding, please contact the Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department by phone at (707) 299-1350 or by email at Environmental-FIRE@countyofnapa.org.

Privately completed Debris and Ash Removal

I have debris removal insurance or plan to finance my own debris removal, may I proceed?

Yes, however, all HHW must be removed **before** any debris and ash can safely be removed under Phase 2.

Property owners may submit a Private Debris and Ash Removal Application and Work Plan for this Phase 2 work. Once the USEPA's inspection and removal of HHW is completed and Environmental Health has received a clearance from USEPA, property owners may seek a demolition permit to begin Phase 2 work. Information on the Private Debris and Ash Removal option will be available soon.

What does Phase 2 entail for those managing debris and ash removal privately?

Property owners shall submit a Private Debris and Ash Removal Application and Work Plan to the Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department (PBES)-Environmental Health Division. Property owners or their qualified contractors (with a valid Class A-General Engineering, Class B or C-21 Building Moving, Demolition license) may perform this work. Due to the Proclamation of a local health emergency, the work must be completed pursuant to standards set forth by the County and State. Once the above two documents have been submitted and accepted by Environmental Health, a demolition permit must also be obtained from the PBES-Building Division. Documentation of proper disposal of all debris and ash is required. To receive information on the private debris and ash removal option, please contact PBES staff at (707) 299-1350.

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