



# SAFETY MESSAGE

## REPOPULATION

### Mendocino Lake Complex Sulphur and Redwood Fires



With the repopulation and personal loss evaluations of your homes and property, CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 4 would like to provide a safety message emphasizing areas of personal concern you might not otherwise be aware of. Anytime a structure, residential or commercial, burns there are certain hazards associated with making access to the property. Many of these hazards have been mitigated by suppression and public utility personnel. However, there are many hazards which may still be present and cause illness or injury to you. The following safety message is provided as a guide to assist in keeping you and your family safe during this process.

- **Body Protection / What to wear when entering your property:**
  - Boots, jeans, gloves, long sleeve, dust masks and eye protection.
  - Do not wear shorts or open toe shoes such as flip flops.
- **Use extreme caution when in and around what appears to be cold ash, the ash could still contain heat:**
  - Constantly be aware of your surroundings and watch where you step at all times.
  - Work in pairs and groups, avoid working in the area for long periods of time.
  - Stay task focused and do your best to avoid distractions while you're working.
- **Traffic safety:**
  - Be aware of a large volume of fire department, utility company and media traffic. If possible please avoid bringing children and pets into the area.
  - When operating your vehicles in the damage area please stay focused and avoid distractions. Many of your neighbors have sustained losses and may not be attentive.
- **Use caution when in and around damaged structures:**
  - Be aware many residences may have cellars and hidden void spaces you could fall into.
  - Hidden nails and sharp objects are most likely present, be cautious where you place your feet.
  - Be on the lookout for free standing chimneys and other overhead hazards which could fall without warning.
- **If firearms are found:**
  - Assume that all firearms are loaded.
  - If you find a potentially loaded firearm and are not familiar with it, leave it where it is, keep it pointed in a safe direction, and contact the owner to place it in a safe location.
  - If you find a firearm damaged beyond repair the local law enforcement will dispose of it for you at no cost.
- **Ash and other burnt materials contain chemicals hazardous to you and your loved ones. Please consider the following before departing from your property:**
  - Wash your hands and boots before leaving your property and entering your vehicle.
  - Avoid cross contamination by washing your clothes before coming in contact with your family.
  - Avoid placing your hands around your face and mouth before they are cleaned.
  - Bring wet ones for keeping yourself clean.
  - Avoid using your hoses to wash around your homes, this sends hazardous waste into sewers.

In closing, CAL FIRE IMT 4s wish you would remain safe during this difficult time. In keeping safe, please remember the above simple yet effective safety suggestions. If you have further concerns about returning to your residence please consider looking at the following internet web sites:

[http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact\\_sheets/PGE\\_ReturningHomeAfterAfterAFire\\_print.pdf](http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/PGE_ReturningHomeAfterAfterAFire_print.pdf)