



Redwood Fire Debris Clean-up Frequently Ask Questions

The County of Mendocino together with the State of California (CalOES) will be offering a voluntary debris cleanup program through CalRecycle for property owners with burned structures due to the Redwood fire. This fact sheet specifically addresses questions about debris cleanup for those residents impacted by the fire.

Can I start clearing burn debris from my property?

Legally, yes, but the County is encouraging people to wait for the release of state funds and the specialized resources that would come with it. The County would then offer to property owners a very safe and comprehensive debris removal program using specialized contractors managed by CalRecycle engineers. Your destroyed buildings will be cleared, cleaned and tested at no cost to you.

If I want to wait for CalRecycle, what should I do in the meantime?

The primary concern is keeping the debris from becoming airborne dust. This can be accomplished by wetting the debris or covering it with tarps or plastic sheeting. Whenever handling or working near debris, be sure that all people utilize appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

I want to look for an heirloom. Can I do that?

Yes. CalRecycle can provide people with appropriate protective gear so they can look through the debris, and they can also take directions from owners on where to look for something sentimental or valuable.

How do I sign up?

The County will contact property owners directly to begin this process.

When will the cleanup crews be on my property?

Due to the high volume of program participants, we are unable to give property owners an exact date for their cleanup. However, you will receive a call from the Debris Removal Program between 24-48 hours before the removal takes place.

When can I rebuild? Who certifies that my lot is clean?

At the conclusion of the entire debris cleanup program, CalRecycle will provide each property owner with a certificate that verifies the lot is clean. When you receive this certificate, you can then show it to the County to receive a building permit. CalRecycle estimates these certificates can take up to three months to issue.

MORE QUESTIONS?

Should you or any other interested person(s) have any questions or concerns not fully addressed in this document, please contact Environmental Health staff at (707) 234-6625 or in person at 860 N. Bush Street Ukiah.