



DEBRIS REMOVAL GUIDELINES

To ensure safety to workers, the public, and the environment, certain protocols must be followed during a wildfire disaster when removing structural ash and debris from a fire. The County is currently offering **two ways** to manage the debris and ash resulting from the wildfire disaster. A property owner may elect to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program or may elect to complete the property remediation and debris removal themselves.

1. Property Owners Who Elect To **Participate** In The Consolidated Debris Removal

Property with destroyed structure(s) from a wildfire are being offered a clean-up and debris removal service conducted by specialized work crews, which are contracted and managed by County and State waste specialists. This program is being paid for with public funds. If property owners have a specified amount for debris removal in their insurance policy, they will need to provide the specified amount to the County. However, a property owner may participate in the program even if the property is not insured. Property owners must sign up for the debris removal program by completing a Right-of-Entry Form, which allows access to their property to complete the removal work. *(For frequently asked questions regarding the Consolidated Debris Removal Program go to <http://wildfirerecovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Fact-Sheet-HHW-and-Debris-Removal.pdf>).*

2. Property Owners Who Elect **Not To Participate** In The Consolidated Debris Removal Program

If property owners elect not participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program, the property owners are still required to remediate the property and remove the burn debris at their own expense in accordance with the County’s Debris Removal Plan. The property owners will not be reimbursed with public funds for the remediation and debris removal. The property owners may complete the remediation and debris removal themselves or through a qualified contractor. Due to the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer, the work must be completed in a manner that ensures the protection of public health and safety.

Private Debris Clean-Up Process Overview

Below is an overview of the debris removal operations and protocols. This information was adapted from various sources and includes “best practices.” Some of the source links are notated at the bottom of page 2.

Clean-Up Operations	Clean-Up Protocols
Site Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure and record foundation and clean-up area. • Notify appropriate entities of clean-up, including local utilities, USA Underground, and Air Pollution Control District(s).
Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Work Plan that provides for site testing and analysis, hazardous waste and asbestos removal, debris removal, erosion control, soil grading, and confirmation sampling.
Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner or contractor will submit a debris removal and demolition or similar permit application to the County. • Once the application is approved, the County will issue a demolition or similar permit.
Site Testing and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property owner will need to hire a certified Asbestos Consultant and Soil Consultant to test the site.
Air Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fugitive Dust – Dust is a significant concern and there should be adequate dust control water applied to burn ash materials at all times, most importantly during contractor

	disturbance and loading.
Hazardous Waste and Asbestos Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All remaining Hazardous Waste and Household Hazardous Waste must be identified and disposed of through the County Hazardous Waste Disposal Program by a certified Hazardous Materials Contractor. • Asbestos must be assessed by a Certified Asbestos Consultant and removed by a licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor.
Debris Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove ash and debris, metals, and concrete from the site and dispose of properly. • Recycle metals and concrete if possible.
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely remove and dispose of foundation; or • Submit a letter from a Licensed Civil or Structural Engineer certifying the foundation is acceptable for rebuild. The letter shall state reasons for their decision.
Soil Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove 3 to 6 inches of soil from the impacted area after the burn ash and debris is removed to a level of visually clean.
Confirmation Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A licensed Soil Consultant will collect soil samples from 0-3 inches for confirmation sampling and compare soil sample results against clean-up goals as established by government agencies in the region, including the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and CalRecycle.
Appliance and Vehicle Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliances and vehicles must be handled properly to meet the requirements of metals recycling facilities.

Confirmation Sampling

Confirmation sampling should be conducted by a licensed professional after fire-related debris has been removed from a property. Representative soil samples should be collected and analyzed to determine compliance with clean-up goals as established by government agencies in the region, including the USACE and CalRecycle. For informational purposes, CalRecycle’s typical operations plan sampling frequencies are included below. The total number of samples to be collected is based on estimated square footage of ash footprint as follows:

Estimated Square Footage of Ash Footprint (Decision Unit)	Number of 5-Point Aliquots
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	Must consult with local environmental health officials

All confirmation samples should be collected from a depth of 0-3 inches using a dedicated 4-ounce plastic scoop and be placed in 8-ounce jars. Samples should be shipped to an approved laboratory for analysis by Title 22 Metals for antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc by EPA Method 6010, and mercury by EPA Method 7471A.

Sources

1. “CalRecycle Wildfires” located at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Disaster/Wildfires/>
2. “CalEPA Debris Removal” located at: <https://calepa.ca.gov/disaster/debris/>
3. “Air Resources Board Asbestos Removal” located at:
https://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/advs/advs443.pdf?_ga=2.100065755.470801255.1508961037-1745915130.1485557184
4. “Trinity County Private Contractor Packet” located at:
http://www.lakecountyrecovers.com/uploads/1/4/9/6/14962408/clayton_private_contractor_cleanup_packet.pdf
5. “Trinity County Debris Removal Operations” (section 6 “Debris Removal”) located at:
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Disaster/Fires2015/Trinity/OpsPlan.pdf>
6. “CalRecycle Erskine Fire Debris” located at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/NewsRoom/2016/08Aug/17.htm>