



# Mendocino County

## 2017 Redwood Complex Fire

### Debris Cleanup and Removal Program

The destruction left in the wake of the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire has the potential to result in widespread public exposure to hazardous materials if not mitigated appropriately in a timely manner. Debris and ash from residential structure fires contains hazardous substances, including heavy metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, PCBs, asbestos, dioxins, and furans, which pose a significant threat to public health and the environment.

The owner of every property with any structure that burned must engage in an approved fire debris cleanup and removal process. To ensure the safety of the public, workers, and the environment, certain protocols must be followed after a wildfire when removing fire-related structural ash and debris. A property owner may elect to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program or may elect to complete the property cleanup and debris removal themselves with a qualified contractor.

#### 1) Property Owners Who Elect to Participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program

Property with destroyed structure(s) from the wildfire are being offered a cleanup and debris removal service conducted by specialized work crews contracted and managed by State and Federal waste specialists. This program is paid for with State and Federal disaster assistance funds and portions of a property owner's insurance (designated for debris removal). If a property owner's insurance does not cover debris removal, or if the property is not insured, the property will be cleaned at no cost to the property owner. Owners must sign up for this program by submitting a completed **Right-of-Entry** form to the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services, to allow access to their property to complete the cleanup work. Removal work in this program will be completed using the October 30, 2017 Debris Removal Operations Plan for Managing Disaster Generated Debris in Mendocino County ("DROP"), prepared for the Army Corps of Engineers by Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC). Please note: this program is only available for residences and residential accessory structures.

#### 2) Property Owners Who Elect to Not Participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program

Property owners who choose to not participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program are required to remediate their property and remove the burn debris in accordance with the Mendocino County Debris Removal Program and "self-certification" process, **at their own expense**. Property owners may complete the remediation and debris removal with a qualified contractor. Due to the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency, the work must be completed in a manner that ensures the protection of public health and safety. **It is strongly advised that property owners review all requirements thoroughly before pursuing their own debris removal. Disaster funding will not reimburse for this work, and a Building Permit to rebuild will not be issued unless the property has been remediated to the standards established herein.**

Property owners who elect to not participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program and do not complete an adequate cleanup through the "self-certification" process will have the destroyed structure inspected and declared a public nuisance. Mendocino County may pursue abatement and seek to recover costs for contract work, staff time, and administration time with a lien recorded on the property deed should abatement expenses not be reimbursed.

# **Mendocino County Debris Removal Program And “Self-Certification” Process**

## **Private Cleanup Process**

Each property cleaned up via the “self-certification” process will need to meet the following cleanup standards and minimum safety standards. The contractor must possess either a valid Class A- General Engineering, Class B- General Building, or C-21 Building Moving/Demolition license.

1. The owner or contractor will submit a Debris Removal Program Application and Debris Removal Plan to Mendocino County Environmental Health, 860 N. Bush St., Ukiah 95482 (707-234-6625).
2. The Debris Removal Plan shall include the following components:
  - Site Description and Detailed Site Map- Description of the property including structures, improvements, vehicles, debris areas, water sources, and septic systems.
  - Procedures for the proper removal of any hazardous waste or asbestos discovered during the cleanup of debris and ash.
  - Acknowledgement that required notifications will be made to utility companies (as applicable) before work begins.
  - Protocol for controlling dust during cleanup activities and transport.
  - Procedures for disposal and recycling of all debris, ash, scrap metal, concrete, etc.
  - Identification and protection measures for any water sources, water tanks, and septic systems.
  - Proposed measures for storm water pollution prevention.
  - Soil sampling and testing plan, including the name of the qualified professional conducting the collection and testing.
3. Once the Debris Removal Program application is approved, the contractor may begin the debris and ash removal process.
4. The debris removal shall follow the Private Cleanup Protocols and Specifications described below.
5. Before work begins, the owner or contractor shall hire a CA Certified Asbestos Consultant to evaluate the site for bulk asbestos and hazardous asbestos waste, and shall submit an Asbestos Demolition/Renovation Notification form to Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (AQMD), 306 E. Gobbi St., Ukiah 95482 (707-463-4354).
6. Once the debris cleanup is completed, the owner or contractor shall hire a certified consultant and collect soil samples to be analyzed for heavy metals.
7. When the soil testing has met the cleanup goals, the owner or contractor will submit a self-certification cleanup form to Environmental Health, which contains analysis of soil samples, certified by a qualified, licensed professional.

# **Private Cleanup Protocols**

## **A. Pre-Debris Removal**

1. Notify USA underground (<http://usanorth811.org/homeowners/>).
2. Secure all utilities, and make notification to PG&E (if applicable).
3. Identify and mark property corners; secure and protect any existing survey monuments. The perpetuation of survey monuments is required and intended to protect both public and private property rights in accordance with federal and state law. All entities engaged in ash and debris cleanup and removal shall be aware of and adhere to the requirements of Business and Professions Code Section 8771 relating to survey monument protection and perpetuation.
4. Thoroughly wet down the structural ash and debris before any removal activities begin. The debris site shall be wetted down 24 hours before any debris activities commence.
5. Identify and mark septic tank and leach field locations.
6. Identify and mark water wells or other water sources.
7. Field measure and record foundation area.
8. Identify and mark other property-specific hazards (swimming pools, propane tanks, hazard trees, etc.).
9. Identify, sample, analyze, and remove bulk asbestos-containing materials by a Certified Asbestos Consultant/Contractor. Submit copies of analyses/receipts to Environmental Health.

## **B. Debris Removal**

1. Complete notifications.
2. Wet the site down again prior to beginning debris removal activities.
3. Use appropriate personal protective equipment consistent with CalOSHA standards.
4. Remove hazard trees for recycling or disposal, if needed.
5. Remove vehicles and appliances for recycling or disposal.
6. Collect, consolidate, and remove metals for recycling.
7. Remove ash, debris, and soil for disposal.
8. Remove 3-6 inches of soil under the ash.
9. Remove concrete foundations for recycling. If you intend to leave the foundation intact, please be advised that prior to issuing a building permit, Mendocino County Planning & Building Services will require a CA Registered Engineer to certify the existing concrete structure has not been impaired and is able to withstand the loads anticipated for new development.
10. Finish grading/smoothing ground surface.

## **C. Confirmation Sampling**

1. Sample and analyze soil for heavy metals using a certified consultant.
2. Compare soil sample results to cleanup goals as established in the DROP.
3. If results exceed cleanup goals, remove additional soil in the failed-sample area and re-sample.
4. If soil sample results are less than cleanup goals, prepare for final erosion control and self-certification.

## **D. Erosion Control**

1. Implement storm water Best Management Practices to control sediment runoff in the areas where destroyed structures were cleaned up.

# **Private Cleanup Specifications**

## **A. Structural Ash and Debris**

1. Shall be transported to and disposed at an approved, lined, Class III landfill.
2. Property owners or contractors shall make contact with the receiving landfill operator prior to hauling the waste in order to ensure its acceptance and schedule its disposal (if required).
3. Receipts for waste disposal shall be obtained from the receiving landfill and copies provided to Mendocino County Environmental Health as part of the self-certification process.
4. Inert debris such as scrap metal may be recycled at an approved facility.

## **B. Dust Control**

1. Property owners or their contractor must provide water or an approved dust palliative onsite. Dust resulting from cleanup activities shall be controlled at all times.
2. Ash and debris shall be thoroughly wetted prior to removal. Hoses with fine spray nozzles shall be used to apply water to the work site prior to and during active debris removal.
3. Debris and ash storage piles must be kept adequately wetted, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is being added to or removed from the pile.
4. All visibly dry disturbed soil surface areas of operation should be watered to minimized dust emissions during cleanup activities.
5. Construction vehicle speed at the work site must be limited to fifteen miles per hour or less.
6. Ash and debris shall be wetted, wrapped in visqueen, taped closed, and covered with a tarp to eliminate the release of dust during transport.
7. Equipment must be washed down before moving from the property onto a paved public road.
8. Procedures must be implemented to prevent or minimize dirt, soil, or ash contaminating roadways, neighboring parcels, or creating an airborne health hazard. The use of blower devices, dry rotary brushes, or brooms for removal of carry-out and track-out on public roads is prohibited.
9. Visible track-out on a paved, public road must be cleaned using wet sweeping or a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum device within 24 hours.

## **C. Site and Roadway Safety**

1. All operations should be conducted to protect the health and safety of all personnel onsite, consistent with CalOSHA standards.
2. Install new address signs, if needed.
3. If cleanup activities will create a roadway blockage or hinder traffic patterns, property owners or their contractor are responsible for obtaining any required permits and ensuring traffic control, if required. Contact the Mendocino County Department of Transportation for information (340 Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah 95482: 707-463-4363).

## **D. Erosion Control**

1. Engineering controls for storm water discharges must be in place prior to dust control operations.
2. Care shall be taken to avoid excessive use of water in order to prevent runoff; any runoff produced shall be contained onsite.
3. Best Management Practices (i.e., silt fencing, straw wattles, etc.) shall be used to prevent ash or soil from washing into drainage courses and culverts, or onto neighboring properties.
4. Stockpiled materials that are not immediately loaded for transport at the end of each work day shall be sufficiently wetted and/or covered to prevent the offsite migration of contaminants.

### **E. Hazard Trees**

1. Trees that pose a hazard to the building site or workers during debris removal activities, or that will pose a hazard during reconstruction activities, shall be removed. Trees may be cut and set aside for firewood or taken offsite and recycled per owner's prerogative.

### **F. Hazardous Materials**

1. Hazardous materials encountered (e.g., compressed gas cylinders/tanks, drums, batteries, paint, fuel/oil, etc.) shall be properly disposed and not placed in the debris or ash waste stream. Copies of disposal receipts/manifests shall be submitted to Environmental Health.

### **G. Soil Confirmation Sampling**

1. Soil shall be sampled and analyzed to confirm that cleanup standards have been met.
2. Following removal of all debris and impacted soil from the site, soil samples shall be collected from the impacted structure area. Sample collection shall be performed by a CA Professional Geologist, Registered Civil Engineer or other Registered Professional. A report of analytical results shall be prepared by this Registered Professional and a copy provided to Mendocino County Environmental Health.
3. Confirmation samples will be collected from the impacted structure area in native soil, at random locations. The selection of the random samples shall be based on a 10 by 10 foot grid overlay of the impacted area with the number of samples to be collected based on the square footage of the area impacted as follows (in square feet):

a) < 2000 sf	2 samples
b) 2001 – 3000 sf	3 samples
c) 3001 – 4000 sf	4 samples
d) > 4000 sf	1 sample per 1000 add'l. sf or fraction thereof
4. Samples are to be analyzed by a California State Certified Laboratory for Title 22 metals (antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc) by EPA Method 6010 and mercury by EPA Method 7471A.
5. Samples must meet the cleanup goal as established by the DROP.
6. If soil sample analyses indicate that cleanup goals have not been achieved, then additional excavation and sampling may be required.



## 2017 REDWOOD FIRE COMPLEX DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM APPLICATION

### Who needs to complete this application?

Property owners who elect to clean up their property on their own with a qualified contractor and owners of agricultural and commercial structures who are not covered under the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. As indicated in the instructions, property owners must also submit a **Debris Removal Plan** along with this Application. Following completion of the debris and ash cleanup work, documentation of proper disposal and a **Self-Certification of Completion** must be submitted.

Property Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor's Parcel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Program Participation

1. Who will perform the asbestos assessment?

Name of Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who will perform the debris removal? [Licensed contractor, A, B or C-21](#)

Name of Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who will perform the soil sampling?

Name of consultant or qualified professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Property Owner Acceptance**

I am aware that a local health emergency has been declared in Mendocino County. I have reviewed the above protocols and specifications to remove ash and burn debris from the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire. I understand the ash and debris contain hazardous substances and can be a health hazard. I understand the ash and debris shall be wetted down prior to removal, wrapped in plastic and tarped prior to transport and disposal to control dust. I understand that soil samples shall to be collected in order to self-certify the project was completed. I understand that I am assuming responsibility for the debris and ash removal at the above-referenced property and this work will be completed at my own expense. I understand that since cleanup of the above mentioned property was performed under my direction or my contractor, the County of Mendocino cannot certify that cleanup was adequate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner/Contractor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Acknowledgement

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
For Official Use Only:  
Debris Removal Plan is attached and accepted by Environmental Health on this date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Building Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN A COPY OF THIS SIGNED APPLICATION TO THE PROPERTY OWNER. KEEP ORIGINAL.



## 2017 REDWOOD FIRE COMPLEX SELF-CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION FORM

### What is the purpose of this form?

The purpose of this form is to verify that your parcel has been cleaned of hazardous wastes, ash, and debris. This form will be used to certify completion of cleanup by property owners so that building permits can be issued for new and replacement structures. Please make sure to submit all reports and receipts as directed.

### Who needs to complete this form?

Property owners who elected to clean up their property on their own or with a qualified contractor.

<b>Owner:</b>	<b>Street Address:</b>
<b>Parcel#</b>	<b>City:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Email:</b>

### A. Ash Disposal

1. The ash and debris was removed and disposed by:  
Contractor and license number: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The ash and debris from my property was disposed at the following facility:  
Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) of Delivery: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Completion (Note: attach disposal receipts): \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Cleanup Confirmation Sampling Results

1. Were soil samples collected?  Yes  No  
Consultant name and license: \_\_\_\_\_  
Did the samples meet the Mendocino County cleanup goal?  Yes  No (Please explain)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a copy of the sampling results for the cleanup.

### C. Asbestos Assessment

1. Who performed the asbestos assessment?  
Name of Contractor \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Attach asbestos assessment report



**D. Property Owner Certification**

I hereby certify that the burn ash and debris generated by the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire has been identified, removed and disposed as described herein and in conformance with the Mendocino County 2017 Redwood Complex Fire Debris Cleanup and Removal Program.

The above mentioned cleanup was performed under my direction and not the County of Mendocino or the State of California.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Reviewed and Approved by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Staff Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date