



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RE-ENTRY AND DEBRIS REMOVAL AFTER FIRE

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If you visit your property to collect belongings and mementos, please familiarize yourself with the information in this packet. It contains important details about the hazards of entering a fire-impacted area.

BURN AREA CONDITIONS

In the burn area, you will encounter dangerous conditions and may be exposed to toxic materials, and physical hazards that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Power lines or wires must be treated as energized as they have the potential to cause serious injury, or death
- Embers & hot ash
- Hazardous materials such as ash, asbestos, heavy metals, oils, fire retardants, pesticides, and other hazardous materials
- Puncture hazards such as broken pipes, exposed nails, broken glass, and damaged structural elements
- Potential explosive hazards such as propane tanks, ammunition, and solvents
- Slippery surfaces and unstable structures
- Toxic airborne particles

DEBRIS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

It is recommended to not disturb structure ash due to potential exposure to toxic materials. If you choose to visit your property, please consider the following:

- Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants to avoid skin contact, whenever possible. Goggles should be worn. Contact with wet ash may cause chemical burns or irritation on skin. Change your shoes and clothing prior to leaving the decontamination site, to avoid tracking ash into your car, home, etc.
- Wear sturdy shoes (steel toes and shanks are recommended).
- Inspect propane tanks for visible damage before turning on and check for leaks using a soap solution.
- Anything in contact with ash should be cleaned and sanitized. **Sorting through/cleaning fire debris is not recommended.**
- Be aware of slip, trip, fall, puncture, and overhead hazards.
- Do not use leaf blowers or do any activities that will put ash into the air.
- Wear a close fitting respirator mask that is rated N-95 or P-100 to block particles from ash or smoke from being inhaled. N-95 respirators can be well-fitted when they do not come into contact with facial hair; the strap tension is adequate, but not overly tightened; and masks fit across tightly at the nose bridge. A tight seal may not be possible for children, even with a small adult-size model. People with heart or lung disease should consult their physician before using a respirator.