

## **MANAGEMENT OF SONOMA COUNTY WILDFIRE DEBRIS**

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 left from the fire. The County is offering **two ways** for Property Owners to manage the debris and ash from the wildfire disaster.

### **1. Owners Who Choose To Participate In The State Sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal Program.**

Residential properties with destroyed structure(s) from the wildfires are being offered a clean-up and debris removal service conducted by specialized work crews, contracted and managed by federal and state waste specialists. Under limited circumstances, some commercial properties may be eligible as well. This program is being paid for with state and federal funds. To avoid duplication of benefits, if property owners have a specified amount for debris removal in their insurance policy, they will need to provide that specified amount to the County for reimbursement of some of the costs of the clean-up. However, a property owner may participate in the program even if the property is not insured. Owners **must sign up** for this program by completing a Right-of-Entry form, to allow access to their property to complete the debris removal work.

For the Right of Entry form go to:

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2147549894>

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>

Additional City and County information is available here:

<https://www.sonomacountyrecovers.org/debris-removal/>

### **2. Owners Who Choose Not To Participate In The State Sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal Program.**

Due to the public health emergency, property owners are required to cause their property to be cleaned up and all burn debris must be removed in a timely manner. If property owners choose not to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program described above (or if properties are ineligible), they may do so at their own expense with work performed by qualified personnel as set forth below.

The owner will submit a *Sonoma County Alternative Program Fire Clean-Up Application* (see attachment) and Work Plan to the County for approval. After implementation of the approved Work Plan, the owner must submit a certification showing that all work has been completed as specified. The work must be completed pursuant to standards set forth by the County and State. These standards are established to ensure protection of public health and are the same standards applicable to the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. Documentation of adequate clean-up and proper disposal will be required. It is strongly encouraged that property owners review all requirements thoroughly before planning or pursuing their own debris removal. Property

owners will not be allowed to build on their property until there is a certification of completion of the property cleanup and removal of all hazardous waste has been completed in accordance with applicable standards approved by the County.

A summary of the protocols and requirements is below:

<b>Clean Up Operations</b>	<b>Clean Up Protocols</b>
Site Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure and record foundation and clean-up area.</li> <li>• Notify appropriate entities of clean-up, including local utilities, USA Underground, and Air Pollution Control District(s).</li> </ul>
Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Application Process	<p>Owner or contractor will submit a Sonoma County Alternative Program Fire Clean-Up Application to Environmental Health together with the work plan.</p> <p>Once application and work plan are approved work may proceed</p>
Site Testing and Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The property owner will need to hire a certified Asbestos Consultant and Soil Consultant to test the site.</li> </ul>
Air Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 to meet applicable standards.</li> </ul>
Hazardous Waste and Asbestos Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All remaining Hazardous Waste and Household Hazardous Waste must be identified and disposed by a certified Hazardous Materials Contractor.</li> <li>• Asbestos removal must be assessed and removed by a licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor.</li> <li>• Waste must be disposed of at an approved location from the list provided by Environmental Health. Available locations may change, and locations within Sonoma County may not be available.</li> </ul>
Debris Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove ash and debris, metals, and concrete from the site and dispose of properly.</li> <li>• Recycle metals and concrete if possible.</li> <li>• Waste must be disposed of at an approved location from the list provided by Environmental Health. Available locations may change, and locations within Sonoma County may not be available.</li> </ul>
Soil Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completely remove and dispose of foundation; or</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Confirmation Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A licensed Soil Consultant will collect soil samples from 0-3 inches for confirmation sampling and compare soil sample results against clean-up goals. The testing standards will be provided by Environmental Health and will be the same standards used for the public</li> </ul>

	cleanup.
Appliance and Vehicle Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appliances and vehicles must be handled properly to meet the requirements of metals recycling facilities.</li> </ul>

**3. Owners Who Choose Neither Option Above And Fail To Adequately Remove Debris From Their Property.**

Due to the public health dangers to the community, owners who choose **not to participate** in the State/Federal sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal Program and who **do not accomplish** an adequate clean-up through the alternative program, will have the wildfire debris inspected by the County, and be subject to the County taking remedial action that may include, but not be limited to, hazard removal and/or relocation, clean-up, site evaluation, soil testing, and/or chemical analysis. All County expenses incurred for such inspection and mitigation, including but not limited to, contract work, staff time, and administration, are subject to full cost recovery from the owner with a lien recorded on the property.

**Confirmation Sampling**

Confirmation sampling should be conducted by a licensed professional after fire-related debris has been removed from a property. Representative soil samples must be collected and analyzed to determine compliance with **clean-up goals** used by the State and federal government which will be available at Environmental Health. The total number of samples to be collected should be based on estimated square footage of ash footprint:

<b>Estimated Square Footage of Ash Footprint (Decision Unit)</b>	<b>Number of 5-Point Aliquots</b>
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 6020, and mercury by EPA Method 7471A. This sampling guidance is informational and preliminary. Additional guidance regarding requirements will be provided with standards.

*This information is based upon statutes and regulations and is intended to provide a basic overview to help achieve compliance. This document does not replace or supersede relevant statutes and regulations and is not intended as legal advice.*