



## COUNTY OF LAKE

### HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Division of Environmental Health  
922 Bevins Court, Lakeport, CA 95453-9739  
Telephone 707/ 263-1164 FAX: 263-1681

## Fire Debris Management: Frequently Asked Questions

Department Contact Information: 707-263-1164 or LakeEH@lakecountyca.gov

- 1. Can I start disposing of household hazardous waste (HHW) from my burned property?**  
*Yes, the County sponsors temporary HHW events at local solid waste company locations. However, the County and State will provide a special program for HHW at burned properties. Contractors will come to your property to take your HHW material.*
- 2. Can I start clearing burn debris from my property?**  
*Legally, yes, but the County is encouraging people to wait, if possible, for the potential 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 the State engineers. Your property, including destroyed buildings will be cleared, cleaned and tested. Work in ash and debris requires careful dust management to include keeping work areas wet.*
- 3. Can I do my own work or hire my own contractor?**  
*Yes, an owner may do work on their own property, but the County will require work practice, proper cleanup to comparable standards, and disposal as the State sponsored project. The available state funding will only pay for work done through the State and not private contractors.*
- 4. How much will it cost to have the State remove debris from my property?**  
*If State and federal funds are released, the County can offer property owners a very safe and comprehensive debris removal program using specialized contractors managed by the State engineers. The program will charge the property owners' insurance policy for what each individual's policy has specified for debris removal. If the insurance policy doesn't cover the full amount of debris removal the State will cover the difference. If the property owner is uninsured then the State will cover the entire cost of debris removal.*
- 5. Where can I take materials for disposal/recycling?**  
*Eastlake Landfill in Clearlake can accept ash and burn debris only with written approval from a Certified Asbestos Consultant. Scrap Metal can be taken to South Lake Refuse & Recycling Lake County Waste Solutions <http://www.recycling.co.lake.ca.us/Facilities.htm> or other local scrap metal dealers.*
- 6. If I want to wait for the State, 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.*
- 7. Please describe the process of the State project**  
*The State contractors will clear all structural fire debris and soil until tests reveal that the property is clean, at which time a clean lot certification can be issued. This effort includes the recycling or disposal of all metal, vehicles, mixed burned debris, concrete foundations, retaining walls, and soil. After debris removal, disturbed areas will be hydro-seeded for erosion control.*

**8. Will we need to be there, or can we be there, when they are removing the debris?**

*Owners do not need to be there, but are allowed if necessary. Owners will be given a 48 hour notice before work on their property begins.*

**9. Once the paperwork is submitted, when will the State work on my property?**

*Clean up teams strategically prioritize zones and areas with the highest environmental health and safety impact.*

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

*Yes. The State 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. It is critical to prevent airborne dust. Keep work areas wet and do not expose yourself and your neighbors to hazards.*

**11. How do I sign up?**

*Property owners sign up by completing a Right of Entry Permit, and providing insurance information if applicable, and submitting the documents to the County of Lake Environmental Health Department in person at 922 Bevins Court, Lakeport, CA 95453, by email to [LakeEH@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:LakeEH@lakecountyca.gov) or by fax at (707)-263-1681. The Right of Entry can be obtained by contacting Lake County Environmental at 707-263-1164.*

**12. How does the insurance reimbursement work?**

*Participation in this program requires property owners to forward only proceeds received specifically for the purposes of debris removal to the County of Lake, which will then be forwarded to the State. The State program will have no cost to owners above the amount specified for cleanup in the insurance policy.*

**13. What if I do not participate?**

*Property owners who do not participate in this process will be required to perform debris removal activities in accordance with comparable standards, as established in the Debris Removal Operations Plan, at their own expense. This includes compliance with best management practices for activities on site, transportation of waste and erosion control. This also includes compliance with the Community Health and Safety Plan.*

**14. What impacts will the project have on the community?**

*There will be several teams of staff and numerous pieces of heavy equipment, along with transport trucks for hauling equipment and waste. Many of these trucks will be parked along roads during the cleanup. These crews will create a good deal of noise, but the time periods will abide by the County of Lake noise ordinance. There will be water trucks providing dust control, and workers cleaning up after trucks hauling debris. Crews will be implementing dust control.*

**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. Staff contact information is located at the beginning of this document.