



**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, California 95453  
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2580  
FAX (707) 263-1012

## **Fire Debris Management: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Point of Contact Information: Lake County Environmental Health: 707-263-1164,  
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 CalRecycle engineers. Your destroyed buildings will be cleared, cleaned and tested at no cost to you.*
- 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 CalRecycle sponsored project. The available state funding will only pay for work done through CalRecycle.*
- 4. 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.*
- 5. If I want to wait for CalRecycle, 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.*
- 6. Please describe the process of the CalRecycle project**  
*CalRecycle 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.*
- 7. 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.*

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

*Yes. CalRecycle 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.*

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

*Property owners sign up by completing a Right of Entry Permit, and submitting the document to County. The Right of Entry can be obtained by contacting Lake County Environmental Health.*

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

*Participation in this program requires property owners to forward all proceeds received for the purposes of debris removal to the County of Lake, which will then be forwarded to the State. Depending on the type of insurance, property owners may need to obtain a bid proposal from a licensed contractor to establish the payment for debris removal. This bid proposal must be based on a specific scope of work that can be provided upon request. Scope of Work can be obtained by contacting Raymond Ruminski.*

**11. 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.*

**12. 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.