



## Public Health Administration

Danette York, M.P.H., Director  
Robert Bernstein, M.D., Health Officer

202 Mira Loma Drive  
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.552.4000  
F: 530.538.2164

[buttecounty.net/publichealth](http://buttecounty.net/publichealth)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **HEALTH OFFICER ISSUES HAZARD ADVISORY WARNING AGAINST HABITATION OF DESTROYED PROPERTY**

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Dr. Robert Bernstein, Butte County Health Officer, has issued a hazard advisory strongly suggesting no habitation of destroyed property due to the North Complex West Zone until property is declared clear of hazardous waste and structural ash and debris by Butte County Environmental Health. There is evidence from recent fires in California that homes and other types of property destroyed by fire contain high and concerning levels of heavy metals, lead, mercury, dioxin, arsenic, and/or other carcinogens. Some property may have the presence of radioactive materials. Exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects, and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts.

As areas affected by the fire with destroyed homes and property are opened to residents, residents will have limited access to visit property to collect recognizable belongings and mementoes that may have survived the fire. Residents should review the **Health and Safety Precaution for Re-entry** packet, which will be distributed at controlled re-entry checkpoints.

The county is working with various state and federal partners to establish a process for the assessment and removal of household hazardous waste and asbestos, as well as structural ash and debris from the fire. This process will be announced to the public upon its completion.

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