

Camp Fire

Returning to Your Home/Property



As areas affected by the Camp Fire are opened to the public, there is important **HEALTH** and **SAFETY** information that you need to be aware of. Residents will be entering these areas at their own risk. Affected areas will not have access to:

- **No Power**
- **No Phone/Cell Service**
- **No Water**
- **No ability to call 911**

Hazardous Fire Debris

Debris and ash from burned properties may contain toxic substances due to the presence of synthetic and hazardous materials. Many building materials contain asbestos. Household hazardous waste such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, and other chemicals may have burned in the fire. These materials can become concentrated in ash and soil and are hazardous to you and your family. **Burned properties will have the following health and safety risks for residents:**

- Potential falling limbs and trees.
- Potential collapsing walls or chimneys.
- Entrapment hazards due to burned tree roots, collapsed or compromised septic tanks, missing septic tank covers or collapsed basements.
- All water including well water may be contaminated, bottled drinking water should be used.
- An N95 facemask will not protect against asbestos.

What to wear

- Boots, jeans, gloves, long sleeve, dust masks and eye protection.
- Do not wear shorts or flip flops.

Use extreme caution when in and around what appears to be cold ash, it still may contain heat

- Constantly be aware of your surroundings.
- Work in pairs and groups.
- Stay task focused and do your best to avoid distractions while you're working.

Property Clean-Up

Butte County is working to secure assistance from State agencies that will ensure proper handling and disposal of debris and ash from the fire. In the meantime, in order to protect your health and the health of your neighbors and your community, **property owners shall not move any ash and debris without authorization from Butte County Environmental Health.**

Tree Damage

Many trees have been identified as hazardous due to the fire and will be removed in the coming days. These trees may be on your property or near your property. Upon return, you may see trees marked with white spray paint with the code:

- **P1** (extreme hazard, may fall at any time)
- **P2** (hazardous, scheduled for removal)

Food Safety

The affected fire areas have not had power since the fire started. Food is considered unsafe after a power loss of four or more hours. If you have food remaining at your home or property, all food should be discarded.

- Never taste food to determine safety. You can't rely on appearance or odor to determine food safety.
- If your refrigerator has been non-operational for an extended period of time, the food inside has gone bad.
- Once your refrigerator has been emptied, clean the inside with soap and water, rinse with clean water, then sanitize with water and bleach (1 Tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water).

Electrical Hazards

Please treat any and all down power lines or wires as live with the potential cause serious injury, up to and including death.

There may be other hazards and conditions not mentioned here that could cause health problems and serious injury or death.