



HAZARD ADVISORY

NOTICE: The Butte County Health Officer has issued a hazard advisory strongly suggesting no habitation of destroyed property until property is declared clear of hazardous waste and structural ash and debris by Butte County Environmental Health.

YOU ARE ENTERING A HAZARDOUS AREA
ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK

In the burn area, you will encounter dangerous conditions and will be exposed to toxic materials that may include but are not limited to:

- Embers /hot ash
- Hazardous materials, including: ash, asbestos, heavy metals, oils, fire retardants, pesticides and other hazardous materials
- Puncture hazards, including: broken pipes, exposed nails, broken glass, damaged structural elements
- Potential explosive hazards including: propane tanks, ammunition, and solvents
- Slippery surfaces
- Toxic airborne particles
- Uneven ground
- Unstable structures

Wear protective gear and minimize time of exposure



HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RE-ENTRY AND DEBRIS REMOVAL AFTER FIRE

If you visit your property to collect belongings and mementos, please familiarize yourself with the information in this packet. It contains important details about the hazards of entering a fire-impacted area.

DEBRIS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Fire damage can create significant health and safety hazards that may be present at individual properties. **It is recommended that structure ash is not disturbed due to potential exposure to toxic materials.** If you choose to visit your property, please consider the following:
 - Wear sturdy shoes (steel toes and shanks are recommended) and clothing
 - Hazardous chemicals and conditions may be present
 - Inspect propane tanks for visible damage before turning on
 - Cover all clothing when in proximity to ash. Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants to avoid skin contact, whenever possible. Goggles should be worn. Contact with wet ash may cause chemical burns or irritation on skin. Change your shoes and clothing prior to leaving the decontamination site, to avoid tracking ash into your car, home, etc.
 - Anything in contact with ash should be cleaned and sanitized. **Sorting through/cleaning fire debris is not recommended.**
 - Be aware of slip, trip, fall, puncture and overhead hazards.
 - Do not use leaf blowers or do any activities that will put ash into the air.
 - Wear a close fitting respirator mask that is rated N-95 or P-100 to block particles from ash or smoke from being inhaled. N-95 respirators are well-fitted when they do not come into contact with facial hair; strap tension is adequate, not overly tightened; and masks fit across the nose bridge. A tight seal would not be possible for most children, even with a small adult-size model. People with heart or lung disease should consult their physician before using a respirator.
 - The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the only agency that certifies respirators to determine that they adequately protect people. Look for NIOSH approval on the package or label.

DO NOT REMOVE ASH AND DEBRIS WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM BUTTE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- The county is working with various state and federal partners who will assess ALL properties for household hazardous waste and asbestos and remove those materials from each property. After the property has been cleared of hazardous waste – 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. There are two options for property owners to manage the debris and ash from the wildfire disaster. The property owner can either sign up for the **government-sponsored debris removal program** or they may undertake the clean-up at their own expense through **private fire debris cleanup** with work performed by qualified personnel under oversight of the Environmental Health Division. The hazardous waste and debris removal program through the state and federal programs will not have any out-of-pocket costs for the property owner. The cleanup requirements for private cleanup are under development and will be announced to the public soon.

FOOD SAFETY

- Perishable food items that have not been properly stored (at or below 41 °F) for more than four hours is not considered safe and must be thrown out.
- If your home has been damaged and you find non-perishable food items we recommend that you DO NOT use them. The containers may appear to be intact but high temperatures may have caused the seams to fail, resulting in the contents being exposed to potential contamination.
- When In Doubt, Throw It Out!!

WATER SAFETY

At this point, water available from your tap should be considered unsafe until the proper water tests can be completed. Boil water notices are in place for all public water systems and will be lifted at some time in the future when water is determined to be safe. If you have a private well, see handout entitled “Well Disinfection & Sampling Information”.

- If your well has been damaged, it may have been exposed to potential contamination and can contaminate surrounding groundwater if not repaired properly. Fire can damage the well casing, electrical conduits and piping. DO NOT use the water for consumption which includes drinking, cooking, dishwashing, oral hygiene, hand washing, bathing and pets.
 - The well must be repaired by a qualified professional, properly disinfected as per Butte County Environmental Health’s requirements and then tested to determine the water is safe for consumption.
 - Qualified professionals include licensed well drillers, pump contractors and/or certified distribution operators. Water sampling may be conducted by the Butte County Public Health laboratory or by a local state certified laboratory (FGL and Basic Laboratory in Chico, CA).

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Fire could have damaged your septic system. The damage would have most likely occurred to the piping between the house and the septic tank, or from the septic tank to the leach field. Damage sometimes occurs from heavy equipment such as backhoes and bulldozers used to fight the fire or to clean up debris. The repairs to the system must be done by qualified professionals as per Environmental Health Division requirements.

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)

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

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



Inspection Placards for Structures in Disaster Areas

Building Inspectors continue to inspect structures that are in evacuation zones. Upon returning to your property you may see one of three different types of placards posted by the Butte County Building Department – a Green Placard, a Yellow Placard or a Red Placard. Be sure to read all notes on the placard. Do not remove, alter or cover placards until Authorized by the Butte County Building Division. (*Butte County Ordinance #4026 Section 6 section 26-3*)

INSPECTED
LAWFUL OCCUPANCY PERMITTED

This structure has been inspected as indicated below and no apparent structural hazard has been found.

Date: _____ Time: _____
Inspector ID: _____
Inspector Agency: _____
 Inspected Exterior Only
 Inspected Exterior and Interior
 Butte County Development Services
 Other/Mutual Aid: _____
Inspector Comments: _____

Report any unsafe condition to local authorities; reinspection may be required.

Caution: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: Butte County.

Do Not Remove, Alter or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority.

Green: The Green Placard means the structure is "Safe for Occupancy." Your structure is safe to occupy as long as it has water, electrical and gas service (if gas appliances). Structures may be damaged, yet the safety of the structure was not significantly changed by the disaster.

RESTRICTED USE

CAUTION: This structure has been inspected and found damaged as described below.

Date: _____ Time: _____
Inspector ID: _____
Inspector Agency: _____
 Butte County Development Services
 Other/Mutual Aid: _____

Entry, occupancy and lawful use are restricted as indicated below: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: Butte County.

Do Not Remove, Alter or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority.

Yellow: The Yellow Placard means the structure has been damaged and occupancy is restricted as noted on the placard as long as you have water, electricity and gas (if gas appliances). Repairs require permits from the County.

UNSAFE
DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY
(This Placard is Not a Demolition Order)

This structure has been inspected and found to be severely damaged and is unsafe to occupy, as described below.

Date: _____ Time: _____
Inspector ID: _____
Inspector Agency: _____
 Butte County Development Services
 Other/Mutual Aid: _____

Do not enter, except as specifically authorized in writing by Butte County. Entry may result in death or injury.

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: Butte County.

Do Not Remove, Alter or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority.

Red: The Red Placard means "No Entry." Structures are damaged and pose an imminent threat to life or safety under expected loads or other unsafe conditions. Do not enter these structures.

Please Note: Although a structure may be placarded "Inspected" or "Restricted Use", specific areas in and around the building could be further identified as unsafe.

If you believe your home or business has been damage and has no placard posted, please contact the Building Division at 530.552.3700 or dsbuilding@buttecounty.net .