



Property Owners who had Structures (Homes and Other Buildings) Damaged or Destroyed in the Thomas Fire

When fire burned buildings or structures on your property, they may have burned hazardous or toxic materials. This includes things such as paint, pesticides, and household cleaning products. Before you can remove any fire debris from your property, hazardous materials must be separated and handled safely to protect you and the environment. Our Environmental Health Hazardous Waste Specialists will work with you to identify these materials. This is only applicable for properties where structures were burned by the fire, not structures that were affected by ash alone. (We do have helpful information for the cleanup of ash to protect yourselves and the environment.)

The process will include the following steps:

1. Phase 1 – Household Hazardous Waste Segregation and Removal - Hazardous Materials Specialists will have direct communication with you about your property and any specific items that may be hazardous on your property. They will provide a general time frame for inspection of your property.
2. The Hazardous Materials Specialists will inspect the property and identify anything on site that may be hazardous. The hazardous items will be placed in a pile on your property. The intention is to separate these items from fire debris and ash.
3. You, the property owner, will be given options about contractors who are qualified and can safely remove the hazardous items. The County will have our contractor pick-up and dispose of Household Waste at no charge to the homeowner unless they opt to hire their own contractor. We recommend you communicate with your insurance company in the event they have any preferences as this could save you time and money.
4. You may remove any items that are not in the pile/group of hazardous materials in any way you select. We do urge you to wear a mask when handling ash and items directly impacted by the fire.

5. Phase II of the cleanup will involve debris removal and will also require assessment of debris for hazardous waste. During Phase II the homeowner will have the option of hiring their own qualified contractor or request enrollment in a voluntary cleanup program with County or State. In either case, the homeowner's insurance company may be required to provide payment from your policy for debris removal.

To list your property for an inspection and identification of hazardous materials or for further questions, please call (805) 346-8460 or (805) 681-4900. We will get back in touch with you. Thank you for supporting a safe and healthy environment.