



Los Angeles County Public Works

900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803-1331
Telephone: 626-979-5370 • Website: lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers

WOOLSEY FIRE - For Property Owners who elect NOT to participate in the government-sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal Program

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Ash and debris that remain from a structure that was destroyed in the Woolsey Fire may contain hazardous waste and materials that can threaten public health or the environment. Therefore, the Los Angeles County Public Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency on November 12, 2018, which **prohibits the removal of fire debris** until an inspection of the debris is conducted by either state, federal, or local hazardous materials agencies.

Los Angeles County (County) requested State and federal assistance to expedite recovery activities and ensure the safe removal of hazardous waste and January fire debris from structures and properties damaged by the wildfires. There are two phases to this State program:

Phase I – Hazardous Material Inspection and Removal

On Monday, December 3, 2018 the LA County Fire Department alongside teams from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) began assessing and removing household hazardous waste from properties burned by the Woolsey Fire.

Additional information can be found at lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers

Phase II – Fire Debris Removal Operations (Government-Sponsored Program)

Upon completion of Phase I, there are two options for fire debris removal from your residential and commercial property:

Option 1: Residents who **opt-in for Government-Sponsored Program (Recommended)**

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), in coordination with Los Angeles County Public Works, will provide Woolsey Fire debris removal at no direct cost to property owners.

- The removal of fire debris is a no-cost service, but property owners must opt-in to the program by submitting a completed Right-of-Entry (ROE) form. The form provides consent for debris removal teams to access a property.
- The ROE form is available at lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers on the main page or under the Debris Removal section or by calling **626-979-5370**.



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- Property owners are encouraged to contact their homeowner's insurance companies, as any insurance proceeds will be dedicated to off-set costs. Property owners who do not have insurance but still meet the eligibility guidelines are still eligible for the program.
- Estimated Timeline: Mid-January to commence debris removal operations (total duration is approx. 90 days, through April 2019)

Submittals can be made in person at one of the Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery Centers, at the Conrad L. Hilton Foundation Building, located at 30440 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 or at the old Malibu Courthouse, located at 23525 W. Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265, or via email to woolseyfire@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Deadline for submittal is January 31, 2019.

Option 2: Residents who **opt-out** of the Fire Debris Removal Program

Property owners are strongly encouraged to participate in the government-sponsored debris removal program as it will be a safer, streamlined process with no fee administered. However, property owners who are ineligible for the Government-Sponsored Debris Removal Program or elect **not** to participate may choose to remove debris from their properties in the following ways:

- Self-clearance and self-hauling directly to a permitted landfill or other permitted solid waste facility.
- Self-clearance and use of roll-off bins or dumpsters by authorized waste haulers to remove debris for disposal.
- Hiring a contractor for clearance and hauling. Residents are advised to select a contractor based on their individual needs. For general information regarding contractors, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board webpage at: http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media_Room/Disaster_Help_Center/

Property owners must submit a "Los Angeles County Local Debris Removal Program Application" (available at lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers) and work plan to their local government for approval before **January 31, 2019**, and at least two weeks prior to commencing debris removal. The work must be done to standards established in the emergency ordinance which became effective December 4, 2018 and other applicable regulations so that health and safety risks are adequately addressed for the community and the environment. Documentation on adequate cleanup and proper disposal will be required. The work must be completed pursuant to the standards set forth by the local government by **March 15, 2019. State disaster funding will not reimburse for this work.**

For questions on fire debris removal programs, contact 626-979-5370. For additional fire-related resources, visit lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For Property Owners who elect NOT to participate in the government-sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal Program

1. I have elected to opt-out of the State's Consolidated Debris Removal Program, what application do I submit for debris removal?

Property owners who elect to opt-out of the State-sponsored Program must submit a "Los Angeles County Local Fire Debris Removal Program Application" (available at the following website: lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers) and work plan to their local government (City or County) building official for approval.

2. What is the Los Angeles County Local Fire Debris Removal Program?

The Local Program is the removal of debris from private property done by the property owner (or hired contractor) at the homeowner's expense and must meet or exceed the program standards set by local, state, and federal agencies. State funding will not reimburse this work.

3. Where do I turn in my application and work plan?

The application and work plan can be submitted in person at the Debris Removal Operations Center, or at the local government (City or County) building official's office. Please **note January 31, 2019 is the deadline** for submitting application for the Local Fire Debris Removal Program.

4. Where is the Debris Removal Operations Centers located?

Debris Removal Operations Center is located at 26610 Agoura Road, Calabasas, CA 91302 and the County Building and Safety Field Office – Calabasas is located at 26600 Agoura Road, Suite 110 Calabasas, CA 91302

5. Can I go to any city to submit my opt-out application and work plan?

Yes. Additional locations to submit opt-out applications and get tailored support are being finalized as part of the Memorandums of Understanding being negotiated between the cities and the County.

6. Can I submit my opt-out application to The Office of Building and Safety?

Yes. Additional locations to submit opt-out applications are being finalized, for now property owners should submit applications using one of the options described above, on question no. 3.



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7. What department in the City or County will review my application?

Applications and workplan will be reviewed by the building official for the City or County where the property is located.

8. Who issues permits for debris removal for applicants who elect to opt-out?

The Office of Building and Safety for the City or County where the property is located.

9. Do I have to pay for permits? If so, how much do permits cost?

This will depend on the City or County where the property is located in and other factors. Please see your local building official for details.

10. How long does it take to receive a permit once my opt-out application is submitted?

A few days to a few weeks, depending on the size and complexity of the property and completeness of the application and workplan.

11. Does the County have a list of certified companies to remove debris?

No. The County does not endorse any companies to provide debris removal services. Owners are encouraged to visit the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Contractors State License Board website at: http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media_Room/Disaster_Help_Center/ for general information regarding contractors.

The County has prepared a list and map with the locations of the franchised waste haulers, Construction and Demolition Recycling Facilities, Inert Waste Facilities, and Municipal Solid Waste Facilities in Los Angeles County at the following website as an additional resource for property owners <https://www.lacounty.gov/lacountyrecovers/debris-removal/>, under Phase II - Option Two.

12. Is there an expedited permitting process to remove debris if I opt out of the government program?

While every effort will be made to expedite permits, each application and workplan must be reviewed for completeness. There is no guarantee that the private, opt-out debris removal will be any faster than the government-sponsored program.



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13. Can the County remove cars from the property that have been destroyed by the fire? If not, who can residents call to remove the cars from the property?

Yes, if property owners opt-in to the government-sponsored program, damaged vehicles on the property will be removed. Property owners who opt-out will have to hire a private company to remove vehicles along with other fire debris.

14. Can burned bushes and vegetation be removed?

Yes, burned vegetation can be removed by property owners. If small enough, burned vegetation can be disposed in your regular trash, or with a call to your waste hauler as a bulky item. Larger items or volumes too large for regular trash service should be disposed by taking the material to a certified waste disposal facility or calling a qualified company.

15. How do I know my property is clear of fire debris and I can start the rebuilding process?

After implementation of the approved work plan and final inspection by the building official, the property owner must submit a certification showing that all work has been completed as specified. The work must be completed in accordance to the program standards set forth by the City, County and State by **March 15, 2019**.

16. How can I access or get copies of my building permit records?

The County maintains building permit records for properties located in the unincorporated area and cities where the County serves as the Building Official. You can download permit data from the Building Permit Viewer website at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/bpv>. For more information please see the Permit Records Search Document or contact your local building official for details.

17. Can I reuse my building foundation if my structure was damaged by the fire?

Existing footings and slabs in fire damaged buildings and structures are not typically permitted to be reused due to the intense heat and fire that the foundation is exposed to. If a homeowner or contractor proposes to reuse the existing foundation, in addition to submitting a debris removal workplan, an engineering report/plan prepared by a licensed civil engineer, structural engineer, or architect. For additional information please see the Concrete Slabs and Foundation Policy for properties where the County serves as the Building Official or contact your local building official for details.

PERMIT RECORDS SEARCH

WOOLSEY FIRE

Step 1: You can download permit data on our Building Permit Viewer website at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/bpv/>. Type your address or assessor parcel number in the search box to obtain permits records.

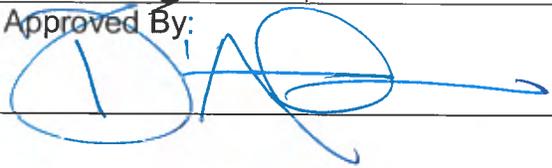
Step 2: In case permit data is not found in step one, the Calabasas District Office will provide your property's permit records. Please email Mr. Zaim Khayat at zkhayat@dpw.lacounty.gov, or call the Calabasas District Office at (818) 880-4150, or visit us at 26600 Agoura Road, Suite 110. Please provide your name, phone number, e-mail address, and property address. We can e-mail you the permit records.

Step 3: Our Calabasas District Office can also obtain assessor records for your property or you can contact the Assessor's Office directly to obtain property data records and field notes [i.e. 'Building Description']. Assessor's field office location: 14340 Sylvan Street, Van Nuys 91401, (818) 901-3455.
<https://assessor.lacounty.gov/office-locations/>

If you need any further assistance, please contact Mr. Khayat, Office Manager of our Building and Safety Division, Calabasas District Office, at (818) 880-4150.



POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Subject Concrete Slabs & Foundations Damaged by the Woolsey Fires	Effective Date: January 1, 2019	Page(s): Page 1 of 2
	Approved By: 	

Policy

Existing footings and slabs in fire damaged buildings and structures are not typically permitted to be reused due to the intense heat and fire that the foundation is exposed to.

Guidelines

If a homeowner or contractor proposes to reuse the existing foundation, besides submitting a debris removal work plan, an engineering report/plan prepared by a licensed civil engineer, structural engineer, or architect must be submitted to Public Works for review and approval certifying the reuse of the existing foundations system.

The engineering report shall provide the testing protocol for the existing foundation to determine if it is suitable for reuse. The foundation system may include footings, piers, grade beams, retaining walls or any other concrete elements that support the structure. In addition, if necessary, a building plan should include structural repairs and details as recommended in the report. Implementation of an approved workplan and testing protocol will not guarantee that the existing foundation can be reused. The burden falls on the engineer to prove through testing that the slab and foundation are structurally adequate for reuse.

The foundation investigation protocol for the report may include a combination or all of the following depending on the extent of the damage:

Visual Assessment:

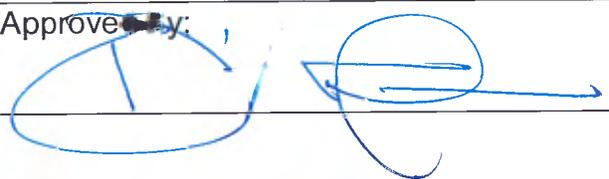
- Includes the review of patterns such as scorch marks, discoloration, cracks, spalling of slabs. Assessment also applies to leaning and tilting walls that may be evidence of heat damage.

Non-Destructive Testing:

- The hammer sounding test, impact echo test, and rebound hammer tests [commonly known as the Schmidt hammer] to determine the surface hardness of the concrete.
- Ultrasound pulse velocity (UPV) testing to measure the depth of the fire-damaged concrete layer.



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Subject Concrete Slabs & Foundations Damaged by the Woolsey Fires	Effective Date: January 1, 2019	Page(s): Page 2 of 2
	Approved by: 	

Destructive Testing:

- The two destructive tests used for concrete are the compressive strength test and petrography test. It should be noted that fire has been known to remove moisture from concrete resulting in an increased breaking strength. Therefore, these two tests results must be correlated to eliminate these error results.

The report/work plan shall include the evaluation investigation methods for both the materials and structural elements, analysis, and repair details if needed. Public Works will review the design professional's report/plan, conduct a site visit, and may require additional investigation tests and analysis if necessary.