



Los Angeles County Public Works

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

WOOLSEY FIRE - CONSOLIDATION DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions (Updated Regularly)

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 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, 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

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

Option 1: Residents who **opt-in for Consolidated Debris Removal 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 direct 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

1. What is the Consolidated Debris Removal Program?

The Consolidated Debris Removal Program consist of two phases: removal of household hazardous waste and removal of other fire-related debris.

In **Phase I**, local government, state and federal agencies have organized teams of experts from the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to inspect impacted properties and remove any household hazardous waste that may pose a threat to human health, animals, and the environment such as batteries, herbicide, pesticide, propane tanks, asbestos siding, and paints. Phase I is automatic and includes both residential and commercial properties that have been destroyed by the fires.

In **Phase II**, CalOES, FEMA, and local officials will coordinate with the State's Debris Task Force and its Debris Management Teams (DMT) to conduct fire-related debris removal from your property if you have elected to participate in the program by signing a Right of Entry Form.

2. What do I need to do?

Phase I (household hazardous waste): You do not need to do anything to have household hazardous waste removed from your property. Operations are automatic and already underway.

Phase II (remaining debris and ash): Contact your City officials or Los Angeles County Public Works at 626-979-5370 to get a Right-of- Entry (ROE) form or download the form at lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers. You will fill out the form to grant government contractors access to your property to conduct the debris removal.

3. After I turn in an ROE to my local government, what happens next?

First, your local government will review your ROE and ensure it has been filled out correctly. It will also cross check property records to verify that you are the property owner. Afterwards, the ROE will be transferred to the DMT for processing and scheduling.

4. How will I know if household hazardous waste has been removed from my property?

The DMT will mark the property indicating that household hazardous waste has been removed.



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5. Is the debris-removal program only for properties that are completely destroyed?

This debris removal program is for fire-damaged or destroyed houses and commercial properties, as directed by local government. If you are unsure if your property qualifies for the debris-removal program, submit a Right-of-Entry form to your local government for assessment or email woolseyfire@dpw.lacounty.gov. For more information visit www.lacounty.gov/LACountyRecovers.

6. What is considered household hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste is waste from houses that poses a threat to public health, animals, or the environment. Hazardous waste includes chemicals that are ignitable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. Examples include pool chemicals, car batteries, antifreeze, used oil filters, solvents, fertilizers, pesticides, propane tanks, disinfectants, aerosols, paint, bleach, and ammunition.

7. Are burned electronics and appliances (white goods) included in the household hazardous waste cleanup?

Teams handling hazardous waste will not remove appliances or electronic wastes, such as TV and computer monitors, computers processing units, or cell phones. These materials will be removed as part of the overall debris removal process.

8. Why not just have the contractors remove household hazardous waste as part of the general clean up?

Household hazardous waste must be removed without delay to protect public health and safety. This is an emergency protective measure. Hazardous waste could have significant long-term environmental impacts and should not be combined with the waste from the general clean-up that is going to the landfill.

Removal of hazardous waste from the fire debris prevents these environmental contaminants from polluting the environment, and protects the workers and the public from exposure during debris removal efforts.

Removal crews are specifically certified to handle household hazardous waste.

9. When will my debris be cleared?

Crews have already begun removal of hazardous household waste. Removal of fire debris, other than hazardous household waste, is scheduled to begin in January of 2019.

There are a number of factors that determine when your lot will be scheduled for debris removal. Contractors are responsible for planning their work, based on priorities set by



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Cal OES and partners, with input from local government and city governments, to maximize efficiency.

10. What is soil testing? Why is this being performed, and how? Who tests the soil?

Crews scrape 3 – 6” of soil from the ash footprint and samples are sent to a state-approved lab for analysis. The results are compared against background samples taken from areas in the vicinity that are not directly impacted by fire to ensure that all contaminated ash was removed. If necessary, more soil is removed and the site is retested until it comes back clear of contaminants. All soil testing results are returned to the DMT for final review and validation.

11. After debris clearance and soil testing, what are the next steps?

Once the DMT have ensured that contractors have removed all debris and soil testing meets California state standards, contractors will return to install erosion control methods. The DMT will then report to your local government that your lot is clear. Your local government will then notify you that your property is safe and ready for rebuilding.

12. Once the household hazardous waste is removed by DTSC, can property owners hire their own contractors to remove the remaining debris?

Yes. If you decide to remove fire-related debris from your property, you must obtain all the necessary permits and environmental clearances from your local government before your contractors start any work.

13. Will I be notified before crews clean my property?

The operational crews will attempt to contact you 24-48 hours prior to accessing your property. You are expected to ensure crews are able to access your property by unlocking gates and/or providing access codes.

Health and Safety

14. My house was destroyed in the fire. Can I go back onto my property to see if I can find any valuables or mementos?

Safe sifting through your property will NOT jeopardize your claims for disaster assistance. Property owners who desire to search debris for possible salvageable items should do so with caution and with proper protective gear: eye protection, masks, gloves, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants. Residents should minimize contact with fire debris, which may contain materials that can be hazardous to your health. For more information visit:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR18-056.aspx>

https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/upload/Fire_Emergency_Guidance_FS_1.pdf



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15. Can residents be present during the cleanup of their personal property?

The safety of the general public and workers is a priority during debris operations. To prevent safety hazards, the public is encouraged to stay away from areas where debris removal operations are underway. Exclusion zones will be established surrounding the current work area to ensure safety of the public.

16. How are the DMT protecting our rivers, streams and aquifers from contamination?

The DMT will use erosion controls on the site as well as use silt collection devices around storm drains to minimize impacts to rivers, streams and the aquifers. They are also taking measures such as wrapping the debris in trucks to minimize particles traveling from the air to the water.

17. Who ensures compliance with worker safety regulations?

The State's Debris Task Force's safety professionals and contractor safety staff ensure work is complying with all OSHA, Cal/OSHA and state and federal EPA standards.

18. What safety and environmental regulations are contractors required to comply with?

Contractors are required to comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations regarding safety and the environment. Whenever there is a conflict between codes or regulations, the most stringent regulation is applied.

Payment and Insurance

19. Who will pay for the debris removal?

All initial costs will be paid by state and federal agencies. However, if property owners have homeowners' insurance covering debris removal, owners must inform local officials by indicating that coverage on their ROE. Homeowners may be required to remit that portion of their insurance proceeds specifically reserved for debris. Please see Attachment A "November 2018 Wildfires Consolidated Debris Removal Program Insurance Fact Sheet" for more details.

20. If I have homeowner's insurance, can I still participate in the debris removal program?

Yes. However, to avoid a duplication of benefits provided by the state or federal government, your insurance company may be required to provide payment from your policy designated for debris removal to the government. Please see Attachment A "November 2018 Wildfires Consolidated Debris Removal Program Insurance Fact Sheet" for more details.



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21. What portion of my homeowner's policy will the local government collect for debris removal?

It depends on the policy that you have. There are generally two types of debris removal coverages in a homeowner's insurance policy:

- **Specified Amount:** If your homeowner's insurance policy contains a separate, debris-specific clause, the local government will only collect the specified amount designated in the debris removal clause. These clauses are typically capped at a percentage of the coverage amounts listed in the policy (for example, 5 percent of the value of a primary structure, other structure, and personal property). You will not owe the local government any additional money, even if the actual costs to remove the debris exceeded the amount designated in your insurance policy for debris removal.
- **No Specified Amount:** If your homeowner's insurance policy does not have a separate, debris-specific clause and instead includes the costs of debris removal in the total coverage, the local government will only collect insurance proceeds for debris removal after you have rebuilt your home. The local government will only collect any available insurance proceeds, if any, after the rebuild. If there are no remaining funds, the homeowner will not owe the local government any additional money for debris removal.

Please see Attachment A "November 2018 Wildfires Consolidated Debris Removal Program Insurance Fact Sheet" for examples.

22. If I participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program, will the local government have the right to take all of my insurance proceeds?

No. The local government will only seek reimbursement from the insurance carrier as stated above. The local government will not attempt to collect any insurance proceeds designated for rebuilding.

23. Can I use my debris removal insurance policy to remove items that are ineligible for removal under the Consolidated Debris Removal program?

Yes. If you have a specified amount for debris removal in your insurance policy, you may use your insurance proceeds to remove fire related debris that is ineligible for removal under the program (e.g., swimming pools, patios, trees, etc...). The local government will only collect remaining insurance proceeds, if any, after you have removed ineligible fire related debris.

If your homeowner's insurance policy does not have a separate, debris-specific clause and instead includes the costs of debris removal in the total coverage, you may use these proceeds to pay for the removal of fire related debris that is ineligible for removal



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under the program. The local government will only collect remaining insurance proceeds, if any, after you have removed ineligible fire related debris.

In either scenario, the property owner will be required to substantiate all expenditures.

Contracting

24. Will the State's Debris Task Force use local contractors in this effort?

The State's Debris Task Force will choose a prime contractor who will hire subcontractors. The State's Debris Task Force will make every effort to encourage the prime contractor to use local subcontractors.

If you have any questions regarding the Consolidated Debris Removal Program, send them to debrisquestions@caloes.ca.gov or visit our website at wildfirerecovery.org.

Foundations

25. How does the state determine removal of foundations?

In general, the structural integrity of concrete and masonry (CMU) can adversely be affected in fire situations, especially when the structure is completely consumed by the fire. The properties of the material may be irreversibly altered deeming it unsatisfactory for reuse in supporting a rebuilt structure. Please see Attachment B "Debris Operational Guidance: Damaged Concrete at Wildland Urban Interface Fires" for more information.

Swimming Pools

26. Will my pool be drained as part of the Consolidated Debris Removal Program?

Pool water pumping is not eligible under the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. However, on a case by case basis, if there is substantial structural debris, the pool water may be pumped. Contractor will place metal fencing completely around the pool where feasible and notify the homeowner.

27. How do I maintain my pool impacted by smoke and ash contamination, or fire damage?

Please see Attachment C for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's guidelines for Swimming Pools Impacted by Fire, Smoke, and Ash.

Attachment A

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Dave Jones, *Insurance Commissioner*

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

CONSUMER SERVICES & MARKET CONDUCT BRANCH

300 SOUTH SPRING STREET-SOUTH TOWER

LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

(213) 346-6800

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November 2018 Wildfires Consolidated Debris Removal Program Insurance Fact Sheet (12/13/2018)

As a result of the recent wildfires, local, state, and federal agencies have initiated a consolidated debris removal program. This action was taken due to the health and safety concerns associated with hazardous substances, ash, and other materials. Homeowners are being asked to sign a Right of Entry form in order to participate in this program. If the homeowner agrees to participate in the program and signs the Right of Entry Form the consolidated debris removal program is being done free of charge, whether the property owner is insured or not insured. If the property is insured, there will be no reduction in the homeowners' coverages available for the rebuilding process.

As noted in the Right of Entry Form, if the homeowner has insurance in effect at the time of the wildfire that provides specified coverage for debris removal (i.e. a certain dollar amount or percentage), the homeowner authorizes that these specified debris removal benefits be paid directly to County up to the specified amount of coverage, after which the homeowner will not be liable for any further costs to County. In the event that coverage for debris removal are not provided on the basis of a specified amount but are included within another coverage category, payment to County shall be limited to the unused benefit amount (if any) in that coverage category after the residence is rebuilt, after which Owner shall not be liable for further costs to County. The benefits of this program would apply even if the homeowner decides not to rebuild in the same location but purchases a replacement home in another location.

Homeowners' (HO) insurance policies cover costs for debris removal in a few different ways. You should consult your specific insurance policy to determine how debris removal benefits are paid. The most common type of HO policy will have (up to) three separate major coverages applicable to debris removal:

Coverage A (Primary Structure): Cost to rebuilt or replace the primary structure.

Coverage B (Other Structures): Cost to rebuilt or replace other structures including detached garages, sheds, etc.

Coverage C (Contents or Personal Property): Cost to replace personal property.

In addition to debris removal benefits that can be paid from the above coverages, many HO policies provide a specified additional benefit for debris removal. The most common HO policy will add additional debris removal coverage of 5% of the policy limits for Coverage A, if Coverage A limits are exhausted (used up) for the actual rebuild costs. Some policies also have additional coverage of 5% of the policy limits for Coverage B and for Coverage C.

Under these types of policies, FEMA, state and local governments (in order to avoid a duplication of benefits) would only require the County to collect up to the additional specified coverage amounts for debris removal (i.e. 5% of Coverage A, plus 5% of Coverage B, plus 5% of Coverage C). This would leave the primary coverage limits intact for the rebuild.

Attachment A

Example 1: Typical HO Policy with Specified Additional Debris Removal Benefits:

Coverage	Coverage Limits	Specified Additional Debris Removal Coverage
Coverage A: Primary Structure	\$200,000	(5% Cov A): \$10,000
Coverage B: Other Structures	\$20,000	(5% Cov B): \$1,000
Coverage C: Contents	\$100,000	(5% Cov C): \$5,000
Total Direct Coverage Available for Debris Removal (Amount paid to County)	NA	\$16,000
Sample Debris Removal Cost*		\$75,000
Deficiency (Homeowner not liable for this deficiency only if they go through the Consolidated Debris Removal Program)**		\$59,000

* The Average Cost for Debris Removal from the Valley and Butte Fires was about \$115,000 per property, so \$75,000 is a very conservative cost, even if the work is done by a private debris removal company (assuming they have all the permits, licenses, plans, equipment, and environmental clearances). Also, an insurer would not be expected to pay an unreasonable amount for debris removal costs.

** If the insured does NOT go through the consolidated debris removal program, the \$59,000 deficiency would erode the insured's primary coverage limits, leaving less money to rebuild. Typically, the insurer would deduct the \$59,000 from Coverage A (Primary Structure), leaving the insured (in this example) with only \$141,000 to rebuild the Primary Structure.

Example 2: Less Common Type of HO Policy: Another type of HO policy has less coverage than the above scenario and does not provide for an additional specified debris removal coverage. In this case, as noted above, attempting to collect debris removal costs would erode most of the Coverage A, B and C limits leaving very little for the property owner to rebuild (i.e. underinsured). However, under these policies, FEMA, state, and local governments will only seek to collect from these types of policies if (after the property owner rebuilds or replaces the home) there is coverage left over in any of the Coverages A, B, or C (that have debris removal benefits). For example using the same coverage limits as above:

Coverage	Coverage Limit	Coverage Used by Insured to Rebuild	Amount Available for Consolidated Debris Removal
Coverage A: Primary Structure	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0,000
Coverage B: Other Structures	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$2,000
Coverage C: Contents	\$100,000	\$ 93,000	\$7,000
Total Coverage Available for Debris Removal Amount paid to County)	NA	NA	\$9,000
Sample Cost on Invoice			\$75,000
Deficiency (Homeowner not liable for this deficiency only if they go through the Consolidated Debris Removal Program)**			\$66,000

** If the insured does NOT go through the consolidated debris removal program, the \$66,000 deficiency would erode the insured's primary coverage limits, leaving less money to rebuild. Some insurers would first deduct the full \$75,000 from Coverage A (Primary Structure), leaving the insured with only \$125,000 to rebuild the Primary Structure.

There are other types of residential property insurance policies that differ in how they cover debris removal costs. Homeowners should review their insurance policy to determine how debris removal costs are handled. But, regardless of what type of policy the homeowners has, if the homeowner agrees to participate in the program and signs the Right of Entry Form the consolidated debris removal program is being done **free of charge** to the homeowner. If a homeowner has questions on the consolidated debris removal program and the Right of Entry form, please contact your county administrative offices. If a homeowner has questions on any insurance-related issues, they may visit one of our insurance experts at the Local Assistance Center (while they are operational) in their county or contact the California Department of Insurance by calling our toll-free Hotline at (800) 927-4357 or visit us online at www.insurance.ca.gov

Attachment B

DEBRIS OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE: DAMAGED CONCRETE AT WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRES Version 4.0, August 20, 2018 By Todd Thalhamer, P.E., CA State Matter Expert in Structural Debris

Background

The purpose of this debris removal guidance is to assist field operational decisions under a CalRecycle structural debris removal program in removing impacted concrete. Working around concrete structures in areas impacted by ash and debris requires significant careful and deliberate effort with equipment and hand labor to remove contaminants or the contractor risks leaving contaminants behind. There is an additional risk that hard scape and other aspects of the site could be damaged by the removal efforts. Generally, all materials, including concrete in areas directly impacted by the fire and subsequent ash and debris, shall be removed.

As with all construction work, a number of field decisions must be made by qualified individuals to complete debris removal. This guidance is designed to operate in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) by using the Incident Command System (ICS) for field response. All field personnel will use this Damaged Concrete Guidance to ensure consistent safe practices are followed. Common issues are addressed below; if questions arise about a concrete structure/wall/pad in the field, please refer to the next level of command for further guidance. Field training is always available to assist in decision making. CalRecycle utilizes the following concrete operating procedures relative to situations encountered during debris removal from residences following catastrophic wild fires.

Discussion

The average house fire burns at a temperature of about 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) but can reach in upwards of 1,300°F depending on certain conditions such as wind and building construction. The longer concrete is exposed to heat, such as that generated by a large-scale wildland, urban interface fire where little to no structural firefighting suppression occurs, the more damage the concrete sustains.

Basic behavior of concrete at high temperatures is well established in textbooks and discussed in the literature. Important factors in assessing the damage to concrete are the rate of heating and the duration of exposure to high temperatures. At slightly above 212°F, free water in concrete begins to evaporate rapidly. When concrete reaches about 350°F, a significant amount of chemically bound water is released. When concrete temperatures reach above 750°F, the residual compressive strength typically drops by 50 to 60% and the concrete is considered fully damaged.

While some professionals use color changes and hammer tests to assess residential, heat-damaged concrete and others use mechanical compression and shear testing, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) considers all

Attachment B

structural foundations to be destroyed by the heat from an unsuppressed structure fire. These slabs and foundations are no longer structurally sound and now considered debris. Additionally, with the known amounts of carcinogens, heavy metals and asbestos, structural slabs will need to be removed to assess the former building sites for residual ash contamination. Should the owner wish to keep a structural foundation, the owner should not enter this public program and instead, contract with a private contractor to remove debris in accordance with local government requirements. The owner should be advised that barrier layers under the slab and anchor bolts are also destroyed by the heat.

Overall Guidance

1. *General Discussion*

- a. All concrete or asphalt within the structural ash footprint will be removed. A distance of five feet from structural ash is used as a guideline. All concrete left in place will be made safe by cutting rebar flush or fencing retaining walls and/or pools. Generally speaking, if confirmation samples will be collected, then the concrete shall be removed. While cutting or breaking concrete, the contractor shall wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including eye and respiratory protection.

2. *Structural Slabs and Foundations*

- a. Required removal: Includes homes, cabins, mobile home slabs, barns, sheds, garages, other living structures and any concrete pad that was designed to hold a structural load. If the slab or pad was used to store vehicles or other commercial materials such as tires, building products, roofing tiles, etc., the impacted slab must be removed.
- b. Exception: Well slabs or pads. To protect the well casing and the integrity of the well, remove only ash and debris by hand and leave concrete pad around the well casing. Protect well with temporary construction fencing. Use PPE.
- c. Exception: Former slabs or pads that only held firewood or other inert material will be left in place. These slabs may be from a previous structure that was removed and/or not damaged by a fire.

3. *Driveways*

- a. Undamaged driveways shall be preserved to the extent practicable. The goal is to provide a stabilized construction entrance for reconstruction.
- b. If the driveway is damaged or contaminated (e.g. burned vehicles) by debris removal equipment or haul trucks to the extent that the driveway is unsafe, the driveway will be removed to the extent necessary. Remove the driveway to the nearest concrete joint or five feet if asphalt outside the contamination or damage. All driveway cuts will be made using a concrete saw. Use PPE.

4. *Chimneys*

- a. Required removal: See asbestos survey requirements.
- b. Exception: Patio fireplaces will not be removed unless deemed unsafe due to fire related damage.

Attachment B

5. *Patio or other backyard features (such as waterfalls, sports courts, etc.)*
 - a. Leave in place unless feature poses a physical hazard from fire related damage or impacted by ash and debris.
6. *Pools*
 - a. Leave in place. Pools will not be removed or drained. Contractor will place metal fencing completely around the pool where feasible and notify the homeowner.
 - b. Exception: Above grounds may be removed if the property owner wants the above ground removed. Pool water may be use as dust control if feasible.
7. *Walkways and private sidewalks*
 - a. Leave in place.
 - b. Exception: Unless necessary to remove for equipment access, covered in ash and debris, or damaged by equipment so that it is unsafe to walk on.
8. *Retaining Walls Less Than Four Feet*
 - a. Leave in place unless covered in ash and debris or remove if the property owner wants the wall removed.
 - b. Exception: If handwork cannot successfully remove the ash, remove wall and cut slope back to 2:1.
9. *Structural Retaining Walls Greater Than Four Feet*
 - a. Leave in place. If connected to slab, make a cut with a concrete saw approximately 24 inches away from the wall. Notify owner that retaining wall is being left in place for erosion control and that the incident management team (IMT) has *not* evaluated the wall for structural integrity. Inform the local government the wall shall be evaluated by a licensed civil or structural engineer before reusing.
 - b. Exception: If wall is unsafe and may collapse, remove wall and cut slope back to 2:1.
10. *Basements and Wine Caverns*
 - a. Required to be removed. Once basements and caverns are removed, the Contractor will cut the slopes back to 2:1 and fence with temporary construction fencing.
11. *Footings*
 - a. Required to be removed. Footings under the foundation will be removed.
 - b. Exception: If footings are horizontal piers or other structural support below the slab, the concrete and/or steel will be cut/broken at the interface and rendered safe from tripping hazards.
12. *Piers, Pilings, or Horizontal Structural Piers Under the Slab*
 - a. Leave in place. Remove slab to grade minus 3/10 and cut rebar and other metal supports to the base of the concrete/steel piers/pilings.



Guidelines for Swimming Pools Impacted by Fire, Smoke, and Ash

The following guidelines are recommended for homeowners who maintain their own pool or spa and Swimming Pool Service Technicians certified by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health who maintain public or private pools and spas. Do not use the pool until the following steps have been completed.

1. Clean the skimmer baskets of debris and skim the water surface of the pool with a pool net to remove floating debris. Covering the net with a t-shirt like material will remove fine particles.
2. Vacuum the pool. Brush sides and bottom of pool to loosen contaminants.
3. Backwash and clean the filter, discharging waste to municipal sewer line. If connected to a septic tank system, discharge the backwash to a pervious surface (gravel, lawn, open space) to allow for infiltration without erosion. Backwashing to the storm drain system (alleys, driveways, streets, storm drains) and creeks is prohibited.
4. Check pH and adjust to between 7.2 and 7.8.
5. Check free chlorine level and adjust to minimum of 2.0 ppm.
6. Ensure the recirculation system is operating properly by checking filter pressure and/or the flow meters. Check the water level to ensure proper skimming (at the middle of the skimmer mouth).
7. Ensure the water is clean and clear and the bottom is easily visible from the deck of the pool.
8. Clean the pool deck and dispose of the debris with the rest of the solid waste. Don't hose down the deck to storm drains. You may spray very lightly first to minimize dust and ashes from becoming airborne, then use a stiff brush or broom to sweep up and put in the trash. A mop and bucket could also be used for clean-up.
9. Depending on the amount of smoke and ash in the air, these steps may need to be repeated after cleaning the filters.
10. Reopen the pool only when:
 - a. All repairs and cleaning have been completed;
 - b. the pool water is clean and clear;
 - c. the pH levels are 7.2 to 7.8; and
 - d. the free chlorine level is 2.0 ppm.

Additional comments and resources:

Draining pools: Draining of pools is not recommended. If you must drain the pool, contact the Storm Water program of your local jurisdiction for guidance. In general, pool water must be dechlorinated before being discharged.

Mosquito breeding: Pools with stagnant water could allow for mosquito breeding. These conditions are prohibited. For more information to prevent mosquito breeding, see the Public Health bulletin www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/ep_rw_MosquitoAdvisor.pdf or check with your local Vector Control District. For the Woolsey Fire area, contact the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District at (310) 915-7370.

Damaged pool, enclosure, or recirculation system: If there is damage to the recirculation system, the pool enclosure, or the pool shell, please contact the Los Angeles County Recreational Waters Program at (626) 430-5360 for Public Pools (including apartments and condominiums). For Single Family Residential Pools, contact your local Building Department.