

# Camp Fire Recovery

## Phase I: Household hazardous waste removal



Town of Paradise, Butte County, CA – November 2018

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are leading the survey, collection and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) at approximately 18,000 properties affected by the Camp Fire in the Town of Paradise and Butte County.*

### **What is household hazardous waste?**

Household hazardous waste includes everyday products like paints, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, herbicides and pesticides, which often contain hazardous ingredients. Pressurized fuel cylinders can also pose a threat and will be removed. Following a fire, these products require special handling and disposal, especially if their containers are compromised. Household hazardous waste may pose a threat to human health, animals and the environment.

### **How is each property surveyed?**

Each property will be surveyed by EPA and DTSC contractors. Local agency officials will accompany teams during the Phase I assessment. Once parcels are surveyed, HHW collection teams will remove the materials identified during the survey. There will also be a slightly different process to identify and remove empty containers and tanks. Phase I will also include removal of easily identifiable materials suspected to contain asbestos. The property will not be cleared of asbestos until Phase II.

### **Why is household hazardous waste removed?**

Following a fire, these products require special handling and disposal, especially if their containers are compromised. An Executive Order issued November 14 by the Governor of California provides EPA and DTSC the authority to access properties to protect public health, animals and the environment from these threats. This work will clear the way for proper removal of ash and debris, allowing the rebuilding process to begin. Phase I is being conducted at no cost to property owners.

### **Will EPA and DTSC remove anything other than HHW?**

No. EPA and DTSC will ONLY remove household hazardous waste. If firearms or suspected remains are found, EPA and DTSC will immediately stop work and contact the County Sheriff. No other items will be removed.

### **How will I know when the process has started and been completed?**

EPA and DTSC crews will be in the field starting Monday, December 3. EPA and DTSC will post a sign on each property when the HHW removal is complete.