



TOWN OF PARADISE
BUTTE COUNTY

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM



Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the fire debris and ash from burned structures have to be removed from my property?

Yes. The debris resulting from the Camp Fire contains hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures and must be properly removed. Debris removal has two phases: removal of hazardous waste (Phase I) and removal of remaining hazardous materials and other fire-related debris and ash (Phase II).

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 your property and remove any hazardous waste that may pose a threat to human health, animals, and the environment such as batteries, herbicide, pesticide, propane tanks, asbestos siding, paints, and e-waste. Phase I is automatic and includes both residential and commercial properties destroyed by the fire. You do not have to take any action for Phase I of the cleanup process.

Phase II fire debris removal is required for properties where a structure of 120 square feet or more has been destroyed by the Camp Fire. In Phase II, property owners must choose one of two options for fire debris removal.

1. Property owners can participate in the government program by completing and signing a Right-of-Entry (ROE) Form, or
2. Property owners can hire properly licensed and certified contractors and consultants to complete cleanup in the Alternative Program. An Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application and Work Plan are required for participation in the Alternative Program.

Property owners may not perform Phase II cleanup themselves. *Owners that meet the same qualifications listed for contractors or consultants may perform the work they are qualified to do on the property they own as part of their work plan under the Alternative Program.*

2. Do I have to sign up to use the Alternative Program to cleanup fire debris?

Yes. Property owners are required to complete an Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application and submit a Work Plan to use the Alternative Program for debris removal. A Work Plan template is included with the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application.

3. When can my contractor begin removing structural fire debris and ash from my property?

Your contractor can begin removing the fire debris and ash left by structures from your property in accordance with the Alternative Program after Phase I is completed for your property and your Work Plan is approved by the Butte County Environmental Health Division. You will know Phase I is complete when a marker is placed on your property indicating Phase I is complete. You may also check the status of Phase I online at www.ButteCountyRecovers.org/maps.

4. What type of contractor can perform the fire debris removal for the Alternative Program?

Property owners are required to choose a contractor with the proper California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) licensing and certifications to perform the ash and debris cleanup work, including hazardous material and asbestos removal.

The CSLB website has information to assist property owners with requirements:

<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesandPublications/DebrisRemovalFacts.pdf>

You can verify a contractor's licensing at the CSLB website:

<https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx>

It is recommended that property owners verify that contractors and consultants have adequate insurance and that the owner is included as an additional insured under the contractor's insurance policy for the cleanup work.

5. Can I keep my foundation?

Your contractor is required to completely remove and dispose of foundation; **or** submit a letter from a Licensed Civil or Structural Engineer certifying the foundation is acceptable for rebuild. The letter shall certify structural reasons for the decision and include process and procedure used to reach the conclusion. **The decision as to whether the explanation is adequate is at the sole discretion of the Building Official.**

6. Do I have to remove soil from my property?

There is a risk of potential soil contamination from the fire debris and ash. As a result, after the ash and debris are removed from the property to a level of visually clean, the contractor is required to remove an additional 3 to 6 inches of soil from the impacted area. This soil can be disposed of at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility and will require the asbestos/hazardous waste certification from the Butte County Environmental Health Division. Care shall be taken during transport of the material, as with the fire debris and ash, to prevent this material from blowing out

of transport vessel during transport, including covering the load with a tarp, reduced speed on unpaved roadways. See Appendix E for additional precautions.

- After removing 3 to 6 inches of soil as part of the soil grading work described above, the contractor or consultant shall collect soil samples from a depth of 0 to 3 inches for confirmation sampling. Results must be at or below cleanup goals as established.
- Confirmation sampling shall be conducted by a qualified environmental consultant, professional engineer, or professional geologist with experience in soil investigations, and is to be conducted after fire-related debris and 3 to 6 inches of soil have been removed from the property.

7. Where do I take concrete and metal for disposal?

Your contractor should recycle metals and concrete if possible. Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility can accept properly separated metal, concrete and ash. Concrete must not be over 2' in any dimension and not have exposed rebar over 5". Concrete and metal must be generally free of ash and debris. Concrete and metal shall be wetted down on site and over the debris pile prior to transport. Disposal fee schedule is currently under review and subject to change.

Appendix C of the Alternative Program includes a list of disposal and recycling sites. This is not a comprehensive list of disposal sites.

8. Where can my contractor dispose of the fire debris and ash?

Contractor may dispose of waste at a property permitted landfill facility such as the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility (NRRWF). Contractor must present a certificate to dispose of fire debris, issued by the Butte County Environmental Health Division, at the NRRWF scale house to allow for disposal. Disposal fees apply. Fire debris and ash at a minimum shall be disposed of at a Class III disposal facility with a liner approved by the Regional Water Control Board to accept the waste.

9. The building on my property that burned are less than 120 square feet. What do I do with fire debris from these structures?

For structures less than 120 sq. ft., you are not required to remove fire debris and ash through the Government Program or the Alternative Program. Please contact the Butte County Environmental Health Division to obtain a certificate to bring fire debris from your small structures to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility. Disposal fees apply.

Note: You may have fire debris on your property, but did not have any structures burn. You may take this debris to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility without a certificate from the Butte County Environmental Health Division.