



SHASTA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



PRESS RELEASE

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Safe Cleanup when Returning Home

Redding, CA – Safety is our priority for residents returning to their properties post evacuation. A fire in a home can cause serious damage. The building and many of the things in your home may have been badly damaged by flames, heat, smoke and water. You may find things that the fire did not burn up but are now ruined by smoke, chemicals and water. Anything that you want to save or reuse will need to be carefully cleaned. Cleanup will take time and patience.

Let's talk food. Discard any and all food that requires refrigeration. The electricity has been off in most evacuated areas for several days. Food can spoil in less than 2 hours without refrigeration.

Discard the following:

- Food requiring refrigeration
- All frozen foods – foods that have thawed and may have refroze after power was restored are unsafe
- Any food that has been exposed to heat, smoke, fire retardant and foam or other chemicals
- Food with unusual odor, color, or texture
- Cans or food containers that are bulging, open, or dented
- Food not in waterproof containers or cans
- Food canned at home
- Food in cardboard containers (including juice, milk, and baby formula)
- Food in containers with screw caps, snap lids, crimped caps, twist caps, flip tops, and snap-tops

When in doubt, throw it out!

Permitted Food facilities that may have or will experience no power can review guidelines on Shasta County Environmental Health webpage or contact Shasta County Environmental Health Division with specific questions at EHD@co.shasta.ca.us or 530-225-5787.

All persons accessing burned structures should be aware of the potential hazards associated with those sites. Hotspots may still be present in debris, rubble, ash, and trees or stumps. Most burned structures and surfaces will be unstable. Be cautious of hotspots an unstable structures and trees. Cleanup efforts at these sites may expose you to ash, soot, and fire decomposition products that can cause health effects including, but not limited to, eye/skin/respiratory irritation. If possible, try to AVOID direct contact with ash. If you get ash on your skin, in your eyes, or in your mouth, wash it off as soon as you can, with clean or sterile water.

Household hazardous waste has to be handled separately from other burn debris and may not go into local landfills. Residents are strongly urged to leave all HHW in place and are encouraged to NOT remove any HHW or damaged containers from their properties. HHW includes unused or leftover portions of products used in your home that contain toxic chemicals. Products labeled Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable or Corrosive are considered hazardous.

Guidelines for Fire Generated Waste can be accessed on the Shasta County Public Works page:

https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/pw_index.aspx

Upon returning to your property you will see one of three different tags posted by the City of Redding Building Department or County of Shasta Resource Management Department - Building Division. Tags are Green, Yellow or Red.

Green: The Green Tag means the structure is "Safe for Occupancy". Your property is safe to live in, as long as you have water, electricity and gas service.

Yellow: The Yellow Tag means the structure is "Habitable but Repairs are Necessary". Your property is safe to live in, but your home needs repairs that will require permits from the City or County.

Red: The Red Tag means "Limited Entry". Your property is not safe to live in but you can access the property to search for valuables at your own risk. In some cases, there is a handwritten note on these Red Tags that reads, "Not Safe. Do Not Enter." Absolutely do not enter these properties, not even to sift for personal property.

We know everyone is eager to return home, but please be safe when returning home and cleaning your property.

For additional safe cleanup guidelines:

Cal-Fire: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/After-a-Wildfire/>

Food Safety: https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/charts/refridg_food.html

Cal-Recycle: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Disaster/Wildfires/>

Shasta County Building division: <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/> select Building division or email building@co.shasta.ca.us

City of Redding Building Department:

<https://www.cityofredding.org/departments/development-services/building>

For more information go to the Shasta County or City of Redding websites, call 2-1-1 Shasta, www.211norcal.org/shasta and follow us on Facebook and Twitter: Shasta County Sheriff's Office

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