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Type of Debris	Eligible for Removal	Not Eligible for Removal
Residential houses (Includes all out buildings on property)		
Residential houses with significant damage (1 wall standing)		
Residential houses with significant damage (more than 1 wall standing)	 <p>May be eligible if it presents an immediate threat to life, public health or safety. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>	
Partially damaged houses (with minimal damage)		
Occupant Owned Manufactured Housing Units (Mobile Homes)		
Commercial / Rental Manufactured Housing Units (Mobile Homes)		 <p>May be eligible if it presents an immediate threat to life, public health or safety. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Commercial structures		 <p>May be eligible if it presents an immediate threat to life, public health or safety. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>

State/Federal Wildfire Debris Removal Program

Type of Debris	Eligible for Removal	Not Eligible for Removal
<p>Combined use commercial and residential</p>	<p> The residential portions of the property are eligible.</p>	<p> The commercial portions of the property are not eligible unless it presents an immediate threat to life, public health or safety. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>Vehicles & Boats</p>	<p> If on property where a home was destroyed / there is another structure that is eligible for removal.</p>	<p> If in the public right of way, the county will remove / owner can have insurance remove.</p>
<p>Destroyed Garage / Shed / Non-Commercial Barns / Play Structures and other Outbuildings where the residence is not damaged</p>	<p> If it is over 120 square feet or more.</p>	<p> If it is LESS than 120 square feet.</p>
<p>Foundations (slab on grade excluding seismic piers)</p>	<p> Foundations will be removed.</p>	
<p>Residential Swimming Pools</p>		<p> The pool will be drained and fenced</p>
<p>Driveways & Retaining Walls</p>		<p></p>
<p>Trees</p>		<p> Not eligible unless they present a danger to workers</p>
<p>Patios</p>		<p></p>
<p>Seismic Piers</p>		<p></p>
<p>Wells</p>		<p></p>
<p>Basements / wine cellars</p>	<p> Will be removed and fenced.</p>	
<p>Septic Tanks</p>		<p></p>
<p>Chimneys</p>	<p></p>	
<p>Docks</p>		<p> Not eligible unless it presents an immediate threat to life, public health or safety. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>



General Program

1. What is the Sonoma County Consolidated Fire Debris Removal Program?

The Sonoma County Consolidated Fire Debris Removal Program (Program) has two phases: removal of household hazardous waste and removal of other fire-related debris.

Phase I: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently inspecting all fire-damaged properties and removing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) that may pose a threat to human health, animals, and the environment such as batteries, propane tanks, and paints. Phase I is being conducted at no cost to property owners and is required for all residential properties. It consists of air monitoring for worker safety and visual observations to identify locations of HHW and other hazardous materials and containers. Once properties are surveyed, HHW collection teams will remove the materials identified during the survey. HHW includes leftover household products that can catch fire, react, or explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic. Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients and require special handling and disposal.

Phase II: The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local officials are coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct fire-related debris removal from your property. This will include removal of all burnt debris, including appliances, electronics, foundations, trees that are a safety risk to contractors, and some soil to ensure the site is clean and safe for building.

2. Is participation in this Program mandatory?

Phase I of the Program is required for all residential properties. All properties are required to timely remove the hazardous debris fields. Phase II debris removal by USACE is optional, however, properties are required to timely remove the hazardous debris fields and deadlines will be set by the City and County. Removal by private contractor is authorized but will be done at the homeowner's expense and work done must meet or exceed the standards set by local, state and federal agencies. This includes compliance with all legal requirements for handling, disposal at authorized disposal sites, soil sampling, and transportation. In addition, best management practices must be utilized along with work activity documentation, and erosion control. Phase I of the Program is being conducted at no cost to property owners.

3. Will we need to be there, or can we be there, during this process?

Owners are not required to be present for either phase of this process. 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.

4. How will I know that the process has started and completed?

Phase I is currently underway; EPA will post a sign on each property when the HHW removal is complete. EPA will also notify the broader community when it has completed HHW removal in an entire neighborhood. When Phase II begins USACE employees will be contacting homeowners via phone to provide notice of work start times. The USACE contractor is required to provide USACE a formal report of completion. USACE will provide those reports to the county and county will notify property owner.

5. 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 the public health and safety. Additionally, 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. The crews that conduct removal are specifically certified to handle household hazardous waste.

Phase II Consolidated Fire Debris Removal Program

6. What is included in the USACE Phase II Debris Removal?

Phase II will include debris and ash removal related to any structures on your residential property that are at least 120 square feet and destroyed, Driveways will be retained as much as possible both for possible reuse and also to serve as a staging area for debris removal and rebuilding equipment.

7. How much will Phase II cost?

If you had insurance in effect at the time of the wildfire that provides coverage for debris removal, it is required that those funds, not used for rebuilding, go toward reimbursement of Program costs. In most cases the cost of debris removal will be greater than the insurance available. Reimbursement amount will not exceed the costs of debris removal on your specific property. If coverage for debris removal is not a separate insurance category, any reimbursement for debris removal will be limited to the unused benefit amount (if any) in that coverage category after the residence is rebuilt. If the full amount of general coverage is used for rebuilding, you will not be responsible for any reimbursement. If you participate in Phase II of the program, we recommend that you consult with your insurance carrier to confirm how much is dedicated to debris removal. If your site will require private debris removal in addition to what is covered under the USACE Phase II, you can use your debris insurance proceeds to cover those costs, and will only be expected to assign the remainder to reimburse the Program. If you do not have insurance the Program will be provided at no cost.

Residential Property Debris Removal FAQs

8. How do I sign up for Phase II of the Debris Removal Program?

Property owners sign up by completing a Right-of-Entry Permit (ROE) form, and providing insurance information if applicable. The ROE and insurance documents must be submitted to the County of Sonoma Department of Health Services - Environmental Health in person or by mail at 625 5th Street, Santa Rosa CA 95404, by email to ehroe@sonoma-county.org, or by fax at (707) 565-6525. The ROE form can be obtained by going to: <https://www.sonomacountyrecovers.org/debris-removal/> or visiting the ROE Processing Center located at 625 5th Street, Santa Rosa CA 95404. The ROE Processing Center can be reached by phone at 707-565-6700.

9. How long do I have to sign up?

The deadline to sign up is November 13, 2017.

10. Can I make changes to the ROE form?

No, the wording in the ROE form is required by California and Federal law and therefore, the terms cannot be changed. We understand that there are many questions related to this form, and we will provide responses through the frequently asked questions document.

11. The ROE includes an indemnification and hold harmless provision. What does this mean?

State and federal laws require that you agree not to sue the county, state, or federal government for harm resulting from the debris removal.

12. Can I be sued by the state or federal contractor that is cleaning my property?

No. All contractors will be licensed and insured, and their insurance will cover any injuries or damage to equipment that occurs during the debris removal process.

13. What happens if a contractor damages my property during Phase II?

Any pre-existing improvements on the Property, such as fences, gates, etc. which are damaged or temporarily removed in the debris removal process will be repaired and/or replaced by the contractor.

14. How do I let the USACE know about sensitive items on my property?

You should include on your ROE information regarding location of any wells, septic systems, ponds, pools, leach fields, water lines, or other structures on your property so contractors are aware of their locations. These items can be identified on the blank last page of the ROE, or by attaching plans, drawings, etc.

15. Will foundations be removed as part of the clean-up process?

Yes, foundation removal will be included in Phase II of the Program. The decision to include foundation removal on all sites was based on prior damage assessments from similar disasters. Testing following previous fires has confirmed that most foundations were not structurally safe, and that contamination leached into the soil underneath foundations that cannot be addressed without foundation removal. Even if your foundation has been determined to be structurally sound, there is a risk of exposure to toxins if you choose not to remove it. If you want to keep your foundation, you are not eligible for Phase II of the Program, and you will be required to meet approved standards to ensure the structural integrity of your foundation.

Residential Property Debris Removal FAQs

16. Will piers be removed?

Foundation piers will not be removed. The contractor will make every effort to minimize damage done to piers during stem wall and foundation removal.

17. Will retaining walls be removed in Phase II?

Generally, retaining walls will not be removed.

18. Will pools be removed?

Pools will generally not be removed under the Program. In rare circumstances, such as indoor pools, they will need to be removed as part of the residential clean up.

19. Should I mark any utilities on the property?

Property owner should list the locations of sewer lines, electricity, gas, cable, septic tanks, water lines, and wells on the ROE form.

20. What happens when the cleanup crews find personal belongings during cleanup?

If crews come across personal belongings, they will set them aside. Large personal items can be identified on the ROE.

21. On rural properties where the main home was not destroyed, will the Program remove destroyed outbuildings?

Yes, any destroyed structures on a residential property that are at least 120 square feet can be included in Phase II.

22. What condition will my property be in after the debris removal?

Sites will be left in an environmentally safe condition with erosion control measures in place ready for property owners to begin the rebuild process. Some grading may be necessary to meet building site specifications.

23. How do we determine property lines after debris removal?

We recommend that you consult with a professional land surveyor/engineer to get an accurate determination of where your legal property lines are. Additional information may be included in your deed and in Assessor's maps.

24. How will the neighborhood phases be scheduled?

The overall project is scheduled to be completed by early 2018. Phasing of clean-up will be decided after the ROE form submittal deadline and will be based, in part, on concentration of participating properties.

Residential Property Debris Removal FAQs

Phase II Private Contractor Remediation Plan

25. Can I opt out of Phase II and do my own debris removal work or hire my own contractor?

As an alternative to the federally assisted debris removal program, a homeowner can take on the costs of debris removal themselves and hire a properly licensed contractor. All work must be completed pursuant to requirements set by the city and the county. You may not do the work yourself unless you have the required certification/license. No state or federal funds will be available outside of the Program. It is recommended that you consult with your insurance company prior to any clean up activity.

26. If I hire a private contractor to remove debris, what is the process to follow?

Private debris removal must follow the standards adopted by the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma, which mirror the state standards being used by the USACE for the Debris Removal Program. More information can be found at: www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/Debris-Removal/

27. Does the Program cover smoke damage or damage to siding in otherwise intact structures?

Phase II of the Program is for debris removal of destroyed structures on residential properties that are at least 120 square feet.

28. Am I eligible for debris removal if my house didn't burn down, but it is covered in ash?

No. Phase II of the Program is for debris removal of destroyed structures that are at least 120 square feet.

29. What precautions will be taken to prevent toxic contaminants from affecting air quality of surrounding neighborhoods during debris removal?

General of air quality is currently being conducted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Air monitoring related to environmental cleanup of fire-related disaster debris will be conducted by USACE. More information is available at <https://monitoring.airfire.org>

30. Will trees be removed in Phase II of the program? How will you determine which trees are removed?

Generally, in Phase II trees will not be removed. However, USACE will be removing any trees that either impede their work or present a hazard to their crews.

31. Should I mark any utilities on the property?

Property owner should list the locations of sewer lines, electricity, gas, cable, septic tanks, water lines, and wells on the ROE form.

