



Tulare County Environmental Health Division
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ALTERNATIVE FIRE DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM APPLICATION
UNINCORPORATED AREA OF TULARE COUNTY

Who needs to complete this form? Property owners who elect *not* to participate in the State-sponsored debris removal program and choose to clean up their property on their own with a licensed contractor OR properties that do not qualify for the state debris removal program. The work must be done to standards established in ordinances and 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 to complete demolition permit. **State disaster assistance funding will not reimburse for work completed by the property owner or hired contractor.**

Where do I submit this form? Submit this form to Tulare County Environmental Health Division at TCEH@tularehhsa.org

Property Owner Name: _____ Phone(s): _____
 Property Address: _____ City: _____
 Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): _____ Email: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Description of Debris Being Removed (how many and types of structures, types of waste, etc.)

A. Program Participation

Who will perform the debris removal?

Please provide the following:

Name of Contractor : _____

License Number: _____

Proposed StartDate: _____

Required: A work plan approval by Environmental Health is required prior to starting debris cleanup.

B. Property Owner Acceptance

I have read and will fully comply, as will any contractor working on my property, with the conditions described in the document "**Management of SQF Complex Fire Debris**" and approved work plan. I understand the ash and debris contain hazardous substances and can be a health hazard. I understand the ash and debris shall be wetted down prior to removal and dust shall be controlled. The ash and debris shall also be completely encapsulated with a tarp ("burrito wrap" method) prior to transportation for proper disposal. I understand that soil samples shall be collected and submitted along with the Debris Removal Clean-up Certification in order to self-certify the project was completed.

Property Owner Signature(Required) _____ Date: _____
 Contractor Signature _____ Date: _____
 Tulare County Receipt _____ Date: _____

MANAGEMENT OF SQF COMPLEX FIRE DEBRIS

To ensure the safety of workers, the public, and the environment, certain protocols must be followed during a wildfire disaster when removing structural ash and debris from a fire. There are **two ways** to manage the debris and ash resulting from the wildfire disaster. A residential property owner may elect to participate in the Cal OES Consolidated Debris Removal Program (CDRP) or may elect to complete the property remediation and debris removal themselves.

Owners Who Choose Not to Participate in the State Sponsored Consolidated Debris Removal Program

If property owners elect not participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program, the property owners are still required to remediate the property and remove the burn debris at their own expense, comply with all applicable requirements, and do so in a timely manner. The property owners will not be reimbursed with public funds for the remediation and debris removal. Due to the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer, the work must be completed in a manner that ensures the protection of public health and safety. Even if you choose to not participate in the CDRP, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and its contractors are still authorized and required to access your property to remove hazardous wastes as part of Phase 1 of the Cal OES Program

Property owners opting out of the CDRP must submit their Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application and work plan to Tulare County Environmental Health for approval at least two weeks prior to the proposed start date of debris removal, though debris removal may begin as soon as the application and work plan have been approved and a demolition permit has been issued. The County will issue a deadline for submittal of the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application and work plan. After implementation of the approved work plan, the property owner must submit a certification showing that all work has been completed as specified. The work must be completed pursuant to standards set forth by the County and State. These standards are established to ensure protection of public health and are the same standards applicable to the CDRP. Documentation of adequate clean-up and proper disposal will be required. Property owners shall review all requirements thoroughly before planning or pursuing their own debris removal. **Property owners will not be allowed to build on their property until there is a certification of completion of the property cleanup and removal of all hazardous waste has been completed in accordance with applicable standards.**

A summary of the protocols and requirements is below:

Clean-Up Operations	Clean-Up Protocols
Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a work plan that provides for site protocols listed below including (but not limited to) testing and analysis, hazardous waste and asbestos removal, debris removal, erosion control, soil grading, and confirmation sampling.
Site preparation/document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure and record foundation and clean-up area (square footage of ash footprint)



Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Owner or contractor must submit a demolition permit application and the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application and work plan to the County.• The demolition permit cannot be issued until DTSC and its contractors have completed the hazardous waste and asbestos assessment and removal, and the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application and work plan have been approved.
Asbestos Assessment and Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The property owner shall hire a Certified Asbestos Consultant to do additional testing at the property and properly remove and dispose of any remaining asbestos. The DTSC and its contractor may not remove all asbestos from the property. They will remove asbestos-containing materials which are easily identifiable and removable. Materials that are believed to be asbestos containing which are not removed will be marked by DTSC and its contractor. Asbestos-containing materials shall be properly assessed and removed by a Certified Asbestos Contactor
Hazardous Waste Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Hazardous Waste and Household Hazardous Waste shall be identified and either taken to the City of Visalia Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility or removed by a Certified Hazardous Materials Contractor. DTSC and its contractor will remove any hazardous materials and hazardous wastes that they find during their assessment but may not find all hazardous materials that may be present.
Debris Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove ash and debris, metals, and concrete from site and dispose of properly.• Recycle metals and concrete if possible.• Waste shall be disposed of at an approved location.
Air Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fugitive Dust – Dust is a significant concern and adequate dust control measures shall be taken at all times, such as water applied to burn ash materials, most importantly during owner or contractor disturbance and loading. Fire debris and ash shall be properly contained during transport to prevent escape. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is requiring a “zero-dust” policy for all contractors performing fire debris removal.• Site must be visually monitored for fugitive dust.• If recommended by a Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC), a site shall be air monitored for asbestos during debris removal activities.• Provide air monitoring results at final certification if it was required.
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 their decision and include process and procedure used to reach the conclusion.



Soil Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of the potential for contamination of the soil from the fire debris and ash it is recommended that 3 to 6 inches of soil be removed from the impacted area after the burn ash and debris is removed to a level of visually clean. This soil can be taken to the landfill. 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.
Confirmation Sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil sampling is to be completed by a qualified individual and samples shall be collected from 0-3 inches for confirmation sampling. Results must be at or below clean-up goals as established. See additional information below regarding soil sampling.
Appliance and Vehicle Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliances and vehicles shall be handled properly to meet the requirements of metals recycling facilities. Any remaining hazardous materials shall be managed properly, such as car batteries. Vehicle Identification numbers (VIN) shall be documented.
Erosion Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate erosion control measures shall be put in place at the end of the debris removal process. The County may inspect the site to ensure that this has been completed properly.

Owners Who Fail to Adequately Remove Debris from Their Property

Due to the public health dangers to the community, owners who choose not to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program and who do not accomplish an adequate clean-up through the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program will have the wildfire debris inspected by the County and be subject to the County taking remedial action that may include, but not be limited to, hazard removal and/or relocation, clean-up, site evaluation, soil testing, and/or chemical analysis. All County expenses incurred for such inspection and mitigation, including but not limited to, contract work, staff time, and administration, are subject to full cost recovery from the owner and collectable by any available legal means including but not limited to a lien recorded on the property. The deadline for completing an adequate clean-up through the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program has yet to be determined.

Confirmation Soil Sampling

Confirmation sampling shall be conducted by a qualified environmental consultant, professional engineer, or registered geologist with experience in soil sampling, and is to be conducted after fire-related debris has been removed from a property.

Representative soil samples shall be collected and analyzed to determine compliance with established clean-up goals. Sampling shall be per CalRecycle’s typical operations plan sampling frequencies included below. The total number of samples to be collected is based on estimated square footage of ash footprint as follows:



Estimated Square Footage of Ash Footprint (Decision Unit)	Number of 5-Point Composite samples (ft ² of each area sampled is total ft ² of ash footprint / the number of required samples)
0-100 square feet	1
101-1,000 square feet	2
1,001-1,500 square feet	3
1,501-2,000 square feet	4
2,001-5,000 square feet	5
>5,000 square feet	Must consult with local environmental health

Each confirmation sample should be collected from a depth of 0-3 inches using a dedicated 4-ounce plastic scoop and be mixed (homogenized) in a one-gallon plastic bag before being placed in 8-ounce jar. Samples should be shipped using chain of custody to an approved laboratory for analysis by EPA Method 6020 per Title 22 for metals antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc. The consultant shall also collect three background samples at a depth of 3-9 inches outside the ash footprint (min 20 ft) to determine if naturally occurring levels of any metals tested are above the cleanup goals. If samples from the ash footprint are below the cleanup goals, then the lab will not need to test the background samples. If sample results for any metals are above the cleanup goals but are at or below the background sample results this must be explained by your soil consultant in the final testing report. Should the confirmation results exceed the cleanup goals and are also above the site-specific background a re-scrape and retesting will be required.