



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Quincy Yaley, AICP  
Director

Land Use and Natural Resources – Housing and Community Programs – Environmental Health – Building and Safety – Code Compliance

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR FIRE DEBRIS AND ASH REMOVAL FROM PARTIALLY BURNED / DAMAGED STRUCTURES

48 Yaney Avenue, Sonora  
Mailing: 2 S. Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209) 533-5633  
(209) 533-5616 (Fax)  
(209) 533-5909 (Fax – EHD)  
[www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

### Household Hazardous Waste

- Fire debris and ash may contain hazardous substances which can pose a threat to public health and the environment. Proper protection should be worn when handling, sorting, and transporting these materials (sturdy footwear, gloves, respiratory protection).
- Household hazardous wastes (batteries, propane tanks, paint, gasoline cans, cleaning products, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, etc) should be identified, segregated, and disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Facility or Recycling Facility.

### Asbestos Removal

- Asbestos or asbestos containing material (ACM) requires assessment by a Certified Asbestos Consultant.
- Asbestos and asbestos containing material must be removed by a licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor.
- If bulk loading ACM, the bin or container used for transport shall be double-lined with 10-mil poly in such a way that once loaded both layers can be sealed up independently (“burrito-wrap method”).

### Debris Transport

- All debris removal must be completed by properly licensed professionals
- All loads should be covered with a tarp; this includes metal debris.
- Ash and debris loads should be wetted and “burrito-wrapped” (placed in a plastic liner and then fully encapsulated with a tarp) prior to being transported for disposal to a regional landfill.
- Contractors/haulers failing to adhere to this standard may have their debris load rejected at the disposal facility.

### Debris Disposal

- Burn waste/ash must at a minimum be disposed of at a Class III disposal facility with a liner approved by the Regional Water Control Board to accept the waste, and
- Any characterization requirements of the disposal site must be met before transportation to such site.
- The property owner should contact the disposal facility, transfer station, or composting operation prior to transport to avoid having their debris load rejected.

### Dust Control

- Property owners or their contractors should look to provide water or an approved dust suppressant, or both, to prevent dust nuisance at each site.
- Dust resulting from performance of the work should be controlled at all times.
- Each area of ash and debris to be removed should be pre-watered 48 to 72 hours before

removal. The water must be applied in a manner that does not generate runoff. Hoses with a fine spray nozzle are recommended.

- If concrete loads generate dust, then the loads must be wetted and covered.
- All waste material that is not unloaded at the end of each workday should be consolidated, sufficiently wetted, and/or covered to prevent the offsite migration of contaminants.
- All visibly dry disturbed soil surface areas of operation should be watered to minimize dust emissions during performance of work.
- Reduce driving speeds on unpaved roads to minimize dust.
- Procedures should be implemented to prevent or minimize dirt, soil, or ash contaminating roadways, neighboring parcels, or creating an airborne health hazard.