



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

for the

Valley Fire Incident Lake & Napa Counties, California

September 28, 2015

Effective: October 2015

Prepared by:

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For:

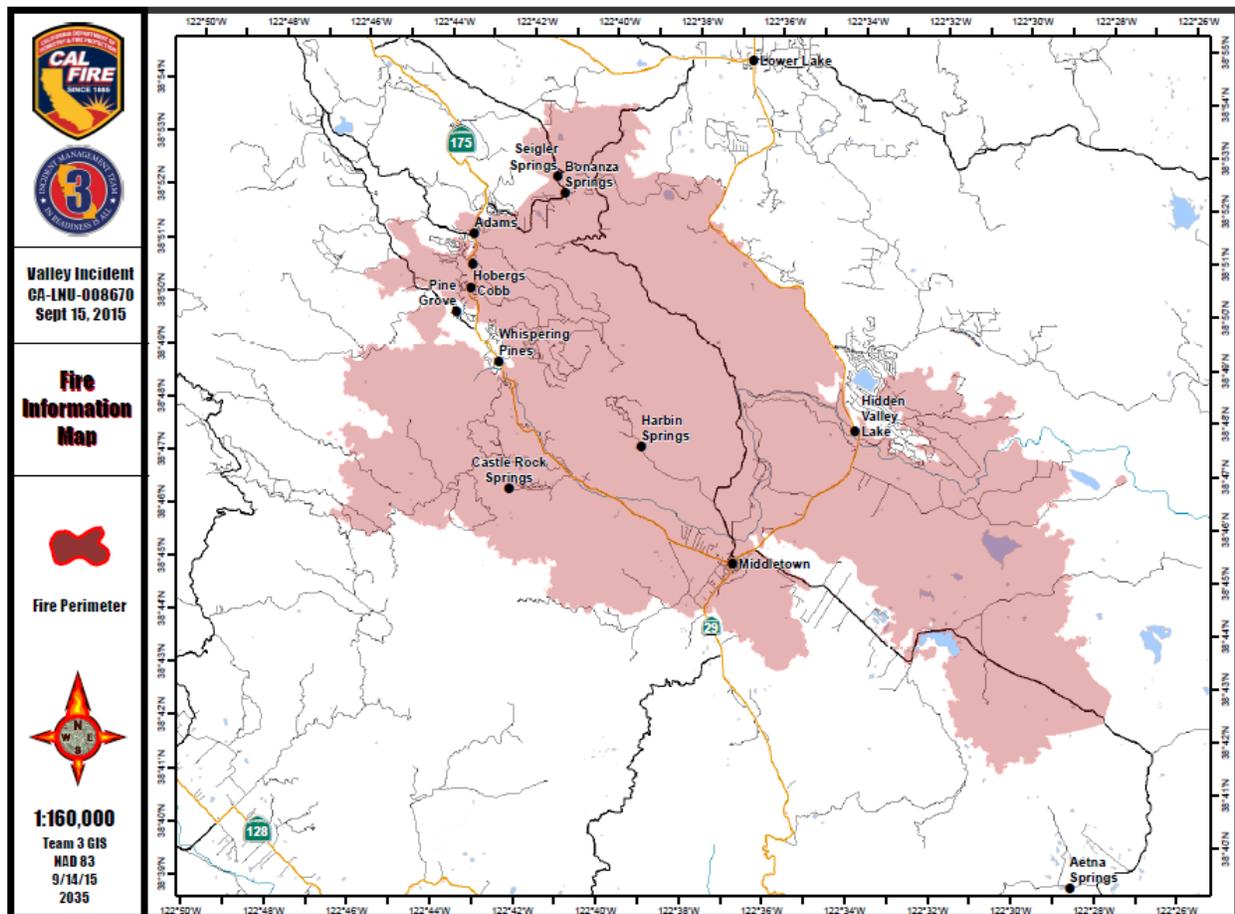
Lake & Napa County Residents

Introduction

On August 27th, 2015, the Governor of California, Edmund G. Brown Jr., issued Executive Order B-33-15, to initiate cleanup of burnt debris and ash in Lake County as a result of wildfires. The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) was assigned to manage the removal and proper disposal of the solid waste and debris left over from the fires in Lake and Napa Counties. Starting October 4th, 2015, CalRecycle and licensed environmental contractors will begin the evaluation and removal process in order to return this area back to safe, pre-fire conditions. This document is intended to inform the surrounding community about why the cleanup crew will be taking certain precautions and what the community should know to protect their own health and safety throughout this process.

Background Information

According to CalFire, almost 2,000 structures have been destroyed as a result of the Valley Fire Incident, placing it among the top three most destructive wildfires in California history. The map below shows the over 76,000 acre area that was affected as a result of this fire.



Potential Health and Safety Concerns to Community

It is important to keep in mind that the hazards listed here are precautionary in nature. CalRecycle recommends safe work practices, as outlined below, to minimize exposure to the public and those involved in the cleanup.

DUST

Dust and ash may contain concentrated levels of heavy metals, asbestos, and other harmful materials. However, proper dust control can minimize exposure to these contaminants. One such control measure that we use is watering the land down to prevent dust from becoming airborne. There will be a water truck on site that will periodically spray water over the dust and ash to accomplish this, and only as much water as is necessary will be used in order to reduce runoff. All loads of burned debris, ash, soil, and any other materials hauled offsite will be wetted and covered prior to removal from the site.

Heavy Metals

Heavy metals, such as antimony, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc may be present in heightened concentrations in the dust, ash, and debris following a fire. These metals are present in low levels in structures and soil, but could become hazardous when concentrated by a fire. Inhalation of airborne ash and dust containing heavy metals is the most common exposure pathway. Use caution if sifting through ash. Avoid stirring up dust by such activities as dry sweeping or blowing with leaf blowers. If the dust, ash, or debris is handled without adequate protection, metals could be ingested through accidental contamination of food or absorbed through a cut in the skin. It's very important—especially for families with small children or pets—to avoid contact with areas affected by the fire. Wash ash off of children's toys and house pets if they get exposed.

Asbestos

Asbestos is found in a wide variety of building materials, including roofing, insulation, floor tile, and stucco. Because asbestos is not flammable, it may get concentrated in the burn ash and debris. Unless it is disturbed and becomes airborne, asbestos does not pose a problem. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has swept the area prior to CalRecycle's cleanup for visible asbestos-containing materials; however, DTSC may or may not have removed all the asbestos-containing waste, depending on site conditions. So wetting the site during cleanup is critical to prevent any of the uncovered asbestos from becoming airborne.

CHEMICALS

DTSC has already done an initial sweep of the area to remove any visible hazardous waste. These may include cleaning products, gas tanks, paint, pesticides, and car batteries. More household hazardous waste will probably be uncovered as the debris is cleared, which will be properly removed and disposed of by CalRecycle and Lake County. Any chemicals that were involved in the fire should not be salvaged or reused. Chemical composition may have been altered to render them dangerous to use.

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Heavy Equipment and Traffic

Increased vehicle traffic, including trucks, heavy equipment, pickup trucks, and automobiles are anticipated in the vicinity of each work zone. It's important to keep in mind that many of these larger vehicles have a limited field of vision, meaning that there are wide blind spots around the vehicle where they cannot see. For this reason, individuals should stand clear of all vehicles and avoid entering the work zone. If for any reason a member of the public needs to enter the work zone, the individual should wait outside the work zone until they have made eye contact with a site representative in safety attire. A site representative will exit the work zone and discuss the matter with the individual. Construction equipment working within the residential zones will maintain a speed of 15 mph or less for added protection.

As with any other construction site, there will be cones and signs to guide street traffic. Pay attention to these signs and slow down around workers. There may be traffic delays on the affected roadways, so plan trips accordingly.

Slips, Trips, and Falls

The fire has likely left fallen trees and other loose debris around your community that could present a tripping hazard. Watch where you are stepping, and only walk around areas that are void of debris to avoid injury. Be aware that objects like branches may have been partially detached from trees or other structures during the fire and could still fall and injure someone standing underneath them. Trees and structures themselves could also pose an overhead hazard if the fire has caused loss of structural integrity.

Radiation

Though radiation is not expected to be a problem, a radiological survey will be performed at each participating debris site to ensure the safety of site workers and neighboring residences. If there is an elevated level of radiation detected, CalRecycle and the County will determine the appropriate course of action and remove the source.

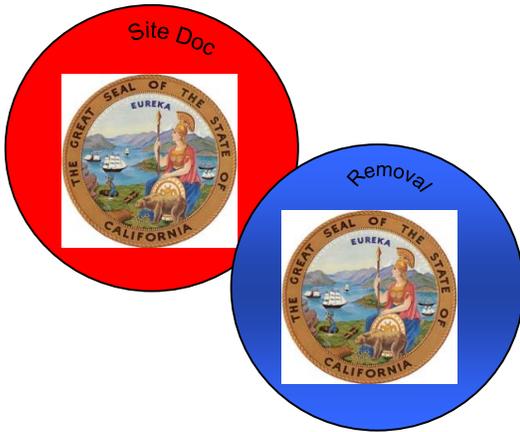
Following cleanup of each site lot, soil samples will be tested to ensure that levels of hazardous materials are low enough to be considered safe. If contamination levels are too high at any of the lots, additional soil will be removed until the site meets the cleanup standards.

Worker Safety Precautions

You may have noticed that cleanup workers are wearing extra safety gear, such as white protective suits and respirators. *Do not be alarmed.* When cleaning up sites like these, workers are in close contact with unknown materials for several hours a day and months at a time. Therefore, they have much greater exposure than the general population. Those that are working in a designated zone around the burnt debris are required to wear personal protective equipment to avoid breathing or touching any potentially dangerous materials. Air monitoring in and around the site will be ongoing to ensure that the air is safe to breathe for both community members and workers.

Project Signs

Each site in the affected area will have a posted sign indicating the current status of debris removal activities on that site. Stickers will be placed on the white sign as tasks are completed to give the public an idea of the progress that has been made. There will also be green address signs in front of all residences that have signed a Right-of-Entry Permit to allow cleanup on their property. Examples of these signs are pictured here.



Lake County
Debris Removal

Address _____

Site Documentation

Asbestos Survey

Removal Complete

Assessment Sampling

Erosion Control

County Approval

CalRecycle Cal OES

Additional Information

For any questions or additional information regarding this cleanup, please contact Diane Nordstrom-Lamkin or refer to the Lake County website at: <http://www.lakecountylac.com/>.