

## Creek Fire Disaster

### Recreation Residence Clean-up and Debris Removal Process

#### Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and steps to follow for cabin owners who have lost a cabin/structure under a Recreation Residence Special Use Permit from the Creek Fire. It is important to note that the destruction from the fire has made hazardous materials (in the form of ash and other debris) a threat to humans and the environment. This debris may be dangerous and must be dealt with a certain way to keep the public and the environment safe. With weather (wind, rain and snow) coming in the very near future, it is important that these materials are properly cleaned up before it mobilizes and goes into the environment, other properties, or waterways.

#### Access and Safety

- The Forest Service has been working to get the areas of destruction safe enough to allow access. To gain access into the Forest Closure area, FS-7700-48 Restricted Use Permits will be needed for entry into the sites until the Forest closure is lifted. These permits are essential in coordinating access with continuous tree felling operations. Contact your permit administrator for this access before initiating cleanup.
- The Forest Service and Fire Incident Management Team have been falling and decking hazardous trees from the fire. Removal of these trees is also being coordinated. Contact the Special Uses Officer or your Permit Administrator if a tree is preventing access to clean up your lot.

#### Permittee Responsibilities

- As stated in the special use permit, the clean-up is the permittees responsibility, whether or not they decide to rebuild (FSH 2709.11-Ch.40 – Supplement No. 2709.11-2016-2 [41.23(3)]). Please inform the Authorized Officer of the decision to not rebuild and further direction will be provided.
- All local state and county guidelines will need to be followed regarding debris cleanup. Please note that all county and state assistance for debris clean-up is directed toward properties on private land but not on federal land.
- Additional Forest Service requirements include a certified hazmat contractor to perform the removal of;
  - **BURNED OR CHARRED FIRE DEBRIS**
    - Household Hazardous Waste (Pesticides, Herbicides, Flammables, etc.)
    - Universal Waste (Batteries, Fluorescent Tubes/Bulbs)
    - Medications/Medical Waste
    - Ammunition
    - Explosives
    - Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers, Washers, Dryers)

- Mercury-Containing Items
  - Household and Landscape Chemicals
  - Paints and Solvents
  - Building Materials such as asbestos and treated wood
  - Automobile-Related such as antifreeze, batteries, motor oil, and tires
  - Other including compressed gas cylinders, propane tanks, needles and sharps, and nonempty aerosols.
- A workplan with contractor information, days of work needing access and expected completion dates will need to be submitted to the permit administrator as well as the county.
  - Another option is for cabin owners to come together to hire one hazmat certified contractor to deal with debris. Such as one contractor per affected tract or one contractor for all of Huntington Lake area. This will possibly reduce the cost to the permittees and would limit the amount of equipment in the area.
  - If a permittee has already made the decision to not rebuild, the site will need to be restored to the natural state (all evidence of a cabin being on the site will need to be removed; chimneys, septic tanks etc.)
  - The Forest Service will need to be notified when the cleanup process is complete.

### **Time Frames**

- A deadline to perform site cleanup has not yet been determined, however the Forest Service will need to be notified if it will not be performed before **November 14, 2020** so our Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team can stabilize the sites prior to winter. Please provide a timeframe for expected cleanup completion.
- After site cleanup is performed the Forest Service will make the safety analysis for each site to determine the status of rebuilding. The permittee will be notified by letter if the site is safe to rebuild or needs additional safety mitigations addressed. This will likely not happen until Spring 2021.
- A document outlining the steps for the rebuilding process will be provided at a later date. For those who decide not to rebuild will still be required to clean-up and then restore to natural conditions.

### **Additional Resources**

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7221/>  
<https://dtsc.ca.gov/emergency-guidance-on-wildfires-2-2/>  
<https://dtsc.ca.gov/emergency-guidance-on-wildfires-1/>

### **Contacts**

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