



## **Health Advisory**

### **Ash and Burn Debris Clean-up and Removal**

**Debris and Ash from Residential Fires may be hazardous. Ash and debris from burned buildings and homes can contain toxic substances due to the presence of synthetic and hazardous materials.**

Many building materials may contain asbestos and older buildings often contain lead. Household hazardous waste such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, and other chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire. These materials can become concentrated in ash and soil following a fire. It is important not to expose yourself, your family, or others to any of these materials. Exposures can occur by sifting through ash and debris, causing ash to become airborne and inhaled or ingested.

Ash and debris generated in the fire may be considered hazardous waste, so do not transport ash or debris to landfills and transfer stations at this time. It is recommended that debris and ash from burned structures remain undisturbed until further instructions are issued. This recommendation is in place to protect the health of anyone who may come into contact with the waste, including solid waste haulers, and the public.

If you have any questions, please call Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division at (559) 600-3357.

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

**Health Information:** Provides general health information which is not considered to be of emergent nature

***Promotion, preservation and protection of the community's health***

1221 Fulton Mall / P. O. Box 11867, Fresno, CA 93775

(559) 600-3200 • FAX (559) 600-7687

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