



**Environmental Health Division**  
2700 M Street • Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370  
**Phone: (661) 862-8740 • Fax: (661) 862-8701**

## Management of Kern County Erskine Wildfire Debris

To ensure safety to workers, the public, and the environment, certain protocols should be followed during a wildfire disaster when removing structural ash and debris from a fire. Kern County is currently offering **two ways** to manage the debris and ash from the wildfire disaster.

1. **Owners may elect to participate in a County and State debris removal program.**

Property with destroyed structure(s) from a wildfire are being offered a clean-up and debris removal service conducted by specialized work crews, contracted and managed by county and state waste specialists. This program is being paid for with State of California Disaster Assistance funds and the property owner's insurance related to debris removal, if available. Properties will still be cleaned if it was not insured. Owners must sign up for this program by completing a Right-of-Entry form, to allow access to their property to complete the removal work. Removal work in this program will be completed using the 2016 Debris Removal Operations Plan for the Erskine Fire in Kern County.

2. **If owners elect not to participate in the County and State sponsored debris removal program.**

Property owners are required to have their property cleaned up with the burn debris removed either on their own or with their own qualified contractor. Due to the Proclamation of a Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer, 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 County and State Debris Removal Program. A demolition permit must be obtained from the Kern County Building Inspection Division. Documentation on adequate cleanup and proper disposal will be required. It is strongly encouraged that property owners review all requirements thoroughly before pursuing their own debris removal under a demolition permit. Disaster funding will not be able to reimburse for this work. A building permit will not be issued until a certification of removal of hazardous waste and clean-up is approved by the Kern County Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division (KCEHD).

Owners who elect **not to participate** in the County and State clean-up program and **do not accomplish** an adequate clean-up through the "Self-Certification" process, Kern County will have the destroyed structure inspected and declared a public nuisance and pursue abatement. Disaster funding is not available to property owners for their efforts in a nuisance abatement action. In addition, any County expenses for contract work, staff time, and administration is subject to cost recovery with a lien recorded on the property deed should expenses not be reimbursed.



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The owner or contractor will submit a Self-Certification Clean-Up Application (see attachment) and work plan to the KCEHD. The work plan shall include, and not be limited to the following items listed in this document: **Site Description, Hazardous Waste Removal Plan, Notification Requirements, Operational Controls, and a Material Disposal Plan.**

Once the work plan is **submitted and accepted** by the KCEHD, the owner or contractor shall obtain a demolition permit from the Kern County Building Inspection Division. After the permit is issued, the owner or contractor may begin the removal process. Cleanup protocols and specifications required in the work plan are outlined below. When cleanup work is completed, and soil testing shows that clean-up goals have been met, the owner must submit a self-certification form (see attachment) to the KCEHD for review and approval.

Please be advised that prior to issuance of a building permit for any permanent structure, the Kern County Building Inspection Division will require a California Registered Civil or Structural Engineer to certify the adequacy of any existing concrete footings/foundations, slabs, and under-slab utilities proposed to be utilized for the structure. Soil sampling may also be required **UNDER** the slab/foundations if they, or any areas adjacent to them, were severely impacted.

### **Site Description**

The work plan must include a general description of the site cleanup to be conducted. The KCEHD will confirm the description with all site assessments and documentation completed previously. Please provide a description of the structures, improvements, vehicles, debris areas, and other site features to be addressed through this site cleanup effort. Include locations of septic and leach fields and well(s) or other water sources. Measure and record foundation area(s). Identify any property-specific hazards, such as swimming pools, mine shafts, propane tanks, etc. A detailed site map must be provided as an attachment.

### **Hazardous Waste, Asbestos, and Household Hazardous Waste Removal Plan**

This property must be screened and cleared of hazardous waste, asbestos, household hazardous waste, and any wastes identified must be removed appropriately. Individuals may dispose of Household Hazardous Wastes at the Kern County Special Waste Facility, located at 4951 Standard Street, Bakersfield, CA 93308. Hazardous wastes must be collected, transported, and disposed of by a certified Hazardous Materials Contractor or by the homeowner. Asbestos must be managed by an asbestos abatement contractor. All hazardous wastes and safety risks must be removed and mitigated prior to beginning ash and burn debris cleanup. If hazardous wastes were identified and disposed of, a copy of the manifest documenting proper disposal must be provided as an attachment. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) may have completed removal of



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hazardous wastes. If so, please note this on the self-certification form and the KCEHD will verify waste assessment and removal through the documentation provided to the KCEHD by DTSC.

For a description of household hazardous and hazardous wastes, please call the Kern County Public Works Department at 661-862-8900 or visit kerncountywaste.com.

### **Notification Requirements:**

- **Demolition Permit:**
  - Kern County Public Works Department, Building Inspection Division (Public Services Building, 2700 M Street, Suite 150, Bakersfield, CA 93301: 661-862-8650)
  
- **Asbestos Testing & Removal:**
  - San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) (34946 Flyover Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93308: 661-392-5500)
  - Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (EKAPCD) (Public Services Building, 2700 M Street, Suite 302, Bakersfield, CA 93301: 661-862-5250)
  
- **Debris & Ash Removal:**
  - Kern County Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division (Public Service Building, 2700 M Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301: 661-862-8740)
  - **Must be notified with 48 hours before starting any cleanup activities.**
  
- Underground Services Alert (USA) at least 48 hours prior to any excavation.  
<http://usanorth811.org/homeowners/>
  
- The local fire department will be notified prior to commencement of work.
  
- The local power provider, prior to removal of any damaged structure, to ensure the electrical power has been shut off.
  
- Contact all local utilities, if applicable, and acquire their shut off plans for utilities at the destroyed structures.



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## **Operational Controls**

### **Site Safety**

- All operations must be conducted to protect the health and safety of all personnel on site, consistent with CalOSHA Standards. If a private property owner is completing the removal efforts, please follow the CalOSHA guidelines to protect yourself. Install new address signs, if needed.

### **Dust Control**

- The contractors shall provide water or an approved dust palliative, or both, to prevent dust nuisance at each site. Dust resulting from performance of the work shall be controlled at all times.
- Each area of ash and debris to be removed shall be pre-watered 48 to 72 hours in advance of the removal. Hoses with a fine spray nozzle are recommended. The water shall be applied in a manner that does not generate runoff. Engineering controls for storm water discharges must be in place prior to dust control operations.
- All loads shall be covered with a tarp; this includes metal debris. Ash and debris loads shall be fully encapsulated with a tarp (“burrito wrap” method). Concrete loads are exempt from a tarp provided the loads are wetted prior to leaving. If concrete loads generate dust, then the loads must be wetted and covered.
- All waste material that is not loaded out 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 shall be watered to minimize dust emissions, during performance of work.
- Reduce speeds when driving on unpaved roadways.
- Implement procedures to prevent or minimize dirt, soil, or ash contaminating roadways, neighboring parcels, or creating an airborne health hazard. The use of blower devices, dry rotary brushes, or brooms for removal of carryout and track out on public roads is expressly prohibited.



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### **Vehicle and Roadway Safety**

- If the removal activities on the property owner’s parcel will create a roadway blockage or hinder traffic patterns, the property owner or contractor is responsible for obtaining any required local permits and post all warning signs as required by local ordinances. As there may be many contractors that are actively working on remediation efforts in the burn area, it is in each property owner’s best interest to identify removal and remediation efforts in adjacent areas that could impact the ability to locate, park, or transport out equipment and materials.

### **Material Disposal Plan**

All hazardous waste shall be removed prior to any other material removal. Obtain and provide the County with copies of all waste disposal receipts at the time self-certification is requested.

### **Wildfire Debris and Ash Disposal**

All Wildfire Debris and Ash must be disposed of at:

- ***Bakersfield Metropolitan (BENA) Recycling and Sanitary Landfill***  
***2951 Neumarkel Road, Bakersfield, CA 93307***  
***(661) 862-8900***  
***By Appointment Only***

Debris waste and Ash must be wetted within 48 to 72 hours before being fully encapsulated with a tarp (“burrito wrap” method) and transported for disposal. Property owners or contractors **must contact** the Kern County Public Works Department (661-862-8900) regarding the “burrito wrap” method and to schedule an appointment prior to hauling waste.

### **Metal Recycling**

- Contractors, metal recycling contractors, and/or owners are encouraged to recycle as much metal as possible. The work plan must provide an estimate of metal recycled from the property. This estimate must document the nature and types of metals, such as passenger vehicle, recreational vehicles, farm equipment, metal waste, etc. Metal may be taken to the Kern Valley Recycling and Transfer Station or Bakersfield Metropolitan (BENA) Recycling and Sanitary Landfill. For locations and hours of operation visit kerncountywaste.com. The Kern County Public Works Department must be contacted at 661-862-8900 regarding the acceptance of this metal. The intended facility must also be identified in the work plan and final documentation of recycling must be included in the final request for self-certification. Check with DMV and homeowner before removing vehicles.



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**Inert Waste (Concrete and Masonry)**

- Inert debris includes concrete from foundations, building slabs, pathways and driveways, cured asphalt, ceramics, plaster, and brick. Contaminated concrete and masonry material must be disposed of at the Bakersfield Metropolitan (BENA) Recycling and Sanitary Landfill.
- If concrete and masonry material are clean and free of contamination, they may be taken to the following locations for crushing and reuse: Ridgecrest Recycling and Sanitary Landfill, or Bakersfield Metropolitan (BENA) Recycling and Sanitary Landfill. For locations and hours of operation visit [kerncountywaste.com](http://kerncountywaste.com).

**Green Waste**

- Green waste will be accepted at the Kern Valley Recycling and Transfer Station, Ridgecrest Recycling and Sanitary Landfill, or Bakersfield Metropolitan (BENA) Recycling and Sanitary Landfill. For locations and hours of operation visit [kerncountywaste.com](http://kerncountywaste.com).

**Well Safety**

- Contact KCEHD at (661) 862-8740.

**Septic System**

- Contact KCEHD at (661) 862-8740.

**Erosion Control**

- Follow best management erosion control practices to the satisfaction of the Kern County Public Works Department, Building Inspection Division (Public Services Building, 2700 M Street, Suite 150, Bakersfield, CA 93301: 661-862-8650)

**Testing Certification**

At the conclusion of the debris removal, soil shall be sampled and analyzed to verify that cleanup standards have been met.

Soil samples shall be collected from the impacted area. Sample collection shall be performed by a California Professional Geologist, Registered Civil Engineer, or a California State Certified Laboratory. A report of analytical results shall be prepared by the contractor and a copy provided to the KCEHD.



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Confirmation samples will be collected from the impacted area in native soil, including under any impacted slabs and foundations, at random locations. The selection of the random samples shall be based on a 10 by 10 foot grid overlay of the impacted area, with the number of samples to be collected based on the square footage of the area impacted as follows (in square feet):

1. < 2000 sf            2 samples
2. 2001-3000 sf        3 samples
3. 3001-4000 sf        4 samples
4. > 4000 sf            1 sample per 1000 additional square feet or fraction thereof

The samples **must be** submitted to a California State Certified laboratory and analyzed for Title 22 metals (antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, vanadium, and zinc) by EPA Method 6010 and mercury by EPA Method 7471A. Samples must meet the cleanup goal established by the 2016 Kern County Erskine Fire Debris Removal Operations Plan.

If any of the sampling results exceeds the cleanup goals, then 2-6 inches of soil shall be removed and sampling redone until cleanup goals are met. The contaminated soil shall be treated as ash.

*The information contained in this guidance document is based upon statutes and regulations and is intended to provide a basic overview to help achieve compliance. This document does not replace or supersede relevant statutes and regulations and is not intended as legal advice. All interested parties should monitor changes to relevant statutes and regulations for updates.*