



# Los Angeles County Public Works

900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Telephone: (626) 979-5370 • Website: [https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/Bridge\\_Fire/index.shtml](https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/Bridge_Fire/index.shtml)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. Do I need a demolition permit before clearing my fire damaged structure? Who issues the permits for debris removal? Do I have to pay for permits? If so, how much do permits cost?**

Please contact the following Building and Safety offices below to verify if a demolition permit is required before initiating fire debris clean-up of a fire damaged structure. If a permit is required, Building and Safety will assess the fees and issue the permits for debris removal.

#### Antelope Valley District Office

Address: 335 A East Avenue K-6 Lancaster, CA 93535

Phone: (661) 524-2390

Contact: Hugo Acevedo

Email: [HAcevedo@pw.LACounty.gov](mailto:HAcevedo@pw.LACounty.gov)

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
Friday 7:00am to 3:30pm

#### San Gabriel Valley District Office

Address: 125 South Baldwin Ave Arcadia, CA 91007

Phone: (626) 574-0941

Contact: Ray Castellanos

Email: [RCastell@pw.LACounty.gov](mailto:RCastell@pw.LACounty.gov)

Office hours: Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
Friday 7:00am to 3:30pm

To submit plans to Building and Safety online, you can visit the EPIC-LA website:  
<https://epicla.lacounty.gov/SelfService/#/home>

### **2. Does Los Angeles County have a list of certified companies to remove debris?**

No. Los Angeles County does not endorse any companies to provide debris removal services. Owners are encouraged to visit the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Contractors State License Board website at: [http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media\\_Room/Disaster\\_Help\\_Center/](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media_Room/Disaster_Help_Center/) for general information regarding contractors.



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Additionally, Los Angeles County has prepared a list of Solid Waste Facilities in Los Angeles County at the following website as an additional resource for property owners [https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/Bridge\\_Fire/index.shtml](https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/Bridge_Fire/index.shtml).

### **3. How do I remove cars and other vehicles from the property that have been destroyed by the fire? Who can I call to remove the cars from the property?**

Property owners will have to hire a private company to remove the vehicles along with other fire debris. Property owners are advised to contact their local California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office for steps to document vehicle status prior to disposal. A Statement of Facts form (REG 256) can be accessed from the DMV website (<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/forms/>) in order to document that the vehicle was burned/damaged by wildfire. Vehicle owners may submit completed form to either: 1) their local DMV office; 2) fax to the Technical Compliance Section (TCS) directly at 916-657-6763; or 3) mail their completed form to:

Department of Motor Vehicles, Technical Compliance Section  
P.O. Box 94869 MS C271  
Sacramento, CA 94269-0001

For additional assistance, please refer to the following list: <https://fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Active-ER-Company-List-12.21.23.pdf>.

### **4. How do I dispose of burned bushes and vegetation?**

Burned vegetation can be removed by property owners. If small enough, burned vegetation can be disposed in your regular trash, or with a call to your waste hauler as a bulky item or excess green waste. Larger items or volumes too large for regular trash service should be disposed by taking the material to a certified waste disposal facility or calling a qualified waste hauler. For a list of certified franchise waste haulers please visit <https://pw.lacounty.gov/epd/swims/TrashCollection/docs/AuthorizedCommercialWasteHaulers.pdf>.

### **5. What is considered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)? Where do I dispose of HHW and Electronics (E-waste)?**

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is waste from houses that poses a threat to public health, animals, or the environment. HHW includes chemicals that are ignitable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. Examples include pool chemicals, car batteries, antifreeze, used oil and filters, solvents, fertilizers, pesticides, propane tanks, disinfectants, aerosols, paint, and bleach.



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Property owners may take HHW and E-waste to Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center. This center is located at 1200 W. City Ranch Road in Palmdale and is open to the public on the first and third Saturday of each month, from 9 am until 3 pm unless otherwise stated. To confirm their schedule and for more information on where to dispose of HHW, including other collection events locations, visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com).

### **6. How do I dispose of appliances (white goods)?**

Property owners can dispose these appliances at a permitted landfill or contact their waste service provider to confirm if damaged appliances are accepted for bulky item pick-up.

### **7. How do I dispose of hazardous waste (e.g. asbestos, lead, and other materials classified as hazardous waste)**

Hazardous waste materials are required to be handled by certified hazardous waste haulers. The County does not endorse any companies to provide hazardous waste debris removal services. Owners are encouraged to visit the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Contractors State License Board website at: [http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media\\_Room/Disaster\\_Help\\_Center/](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media_Room/Disaster_Help_Center/) for general information regarding contractors. A list of Emergency Response Active Cleanup Companies for Hazardous Materials can be found at the following link: <https://fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Active-ER-Company-List-12.21.23.pdf>

### **8. How do I dispose of treated wood debris and railroad ties?**

Treated wood material including creosote-treated wood and railroad ties should not be placed in yard waste bins designated for vegetative landscape debris. Property owners or contractors should contact disposal facility for special handling instructions.

### **9. When can I start the rebuilding process?**

The rebuilding process can start after the demolition permit inspection by Building and Safety has been completed. The rebuilding process will first require plan approval from the Department of Regional Planning. Thereupon, a building and/or grading permit application can be made with the Department of Public Works (Building and Safety Division) and agency referrals will be provided. Once the building and/or grading plan is approved and all agency referrals are satisfied the building and/or grading permits can be obtained to start rebuilding.



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### 10. How can I access or get copies of my building permit records?

The County maintains building permit records for properties located in the unincorporated area. You can download permit data from the Building Permit Viewer website at <http://pw.lacounty.gov/bsd/bpv>. For more information, please see contact your local building and safety office for details.

### 11. What if my property only sustained partial or minor structural damage, do I still need to obtain a demolition permit? What is considered a partially burned or damaged structure?

Demolition permits are the first step of the Rebuilding process. Please contact your local Building and Safety office to determine permitting needs for your rebuilding plans. A partially burned or damaged structure means the following:

- A structure with minimal fire damage where portions of the structure have not been exposed to fire;
- Where vertical and horizontal structural elements (stud walls, beams, joist, rafters, trusses, etc.) remain intact; and
- A demolition permit is required.

### 12. Can I reuse my building foundation if my structure was damaged by the fire?

Existing footings and slabs in fire damaged buildings and structures are not typically permitted to be reused due to the intense heat and fire that the foundation is exposed to. If a homeowner or contractor proposes to reuse the existing foundation, in addition to submitting a debris removal workplan, an engineering report/plan prepared by a licensed civil engineer, structural engineer, or architect must be submitted. For additional information please see **Attachment - Concrete Slabs & Foundations Damaged by the Fires Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines**.

### 13. How do I maintain my pool impacted by smoke and ash contamination, or fire damage?

Please refer to the Los Angeles County's Public Health guidelines for Swimming Pools Impacted by Fire, Smoke, and Ash can be found on their website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/docs/GuidelinesForSwimmingPoolsDamagedDueToWildfires.pdf>. For more information, please contact the Environmental Health, Recreational Waters Program at (626) 430-5360 or [rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov).



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### **14. Can I use a Recreational Vehicle (RV) or Mobile Home on my property while I clean up and rebuild?**

As you rebuild your home, a Recreational Vehicle (RV) or Mobile Home may be used for temporary housing upon approval from the Department of Regional Planning. Please refer to Los Angeles County's Public Health guidelines for Requirements for Temporary Use of Recreational Vehicles and Mobile Homes on Fire Affected Properties at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/rvs-temporary-use-housing.htm#guidance-supportive-housing>

In addition, please refer to the Disaster Recovery Ordinance for additional information regarding Temporary Housing

[https://library.municode.com/ca/los\\_angeles\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO\\_DIV9AD\\_CH22.256DIRE](https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV9AD_CH22.256DIRE)

### **15. Additional Resources for Property Owners**


Property owners that need additional assistance with debris removal or other needs may reach out to our network of Non-Governmental Partners listed at the website below:

#### **Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA)**

Website: <https://enla.org/current-activations>

Email: [info@enla.org](mailto:info@enla.org)

# ATTACHMENT

	<b>POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES</b>		
<b>Subject</b>  <b>Concrete Slabs &amp; Foundations Damaged by the Fires</b>	Effective Date: November 23,2020	Pages: 1 of 1	
	Approved By: 		

## ***Policy***

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Existing footings and slabs in fire-damaged buildings and structures are not typically permitted to be reused due to the impacts of intense heat and fire to the foundation.

## ***Guidelines***

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If a homeowner or contractor proposes to reuse the existing foundation, besides submitting a debris removal workplan, an engineering report/plan prepared by a licensed civil engineer, structural engineer, or architect must be submitted to Public Works for review and approval certifying the reuse of the existing foundations system.

The engineering report shall provide the testing protocol for the existing foundation to determine if it is suitable for reuse. The foundation system may include footings, piers, grade beams, retaining walls, or any other concrete elements that support the structure. In addition, if necessary, a building plan should include structural repairs and details as recommended in the report. Implementation of an approved workplan and testing protocol will not guarantee that the existing foundation can be reused. The burden falls on the design professional to prove through testing that the slab and foundation are structurally adequate for reuse.

The foundation investigation protocol may include a combination or all of the following depending on the extent of the damage:

### Visual Assessment

- Includes the review of patterns such as scorch marks, discoloration, cracks, spalling of slabs. Assessment also applies to leaning and tilting of walls that may be evidence of heat damage.

### Non-Destructive Testing

- The hammer sounding, impact echo, and rebound hammer [commonly known as the Schmidt hammer] tests to determine the surface hardness of the concrete.
- Ultrasound pulse velocity (UPV) testing to measure the depth of the fire-damaged concrete layer.

### Destructive Testing

- The two destructive tests used for concrete are the compressive strength test and petrography test. It should be noted that fire has been known to remove moisture from concrete, resulting in an increased breaking strength. Therefore, these two test results should be correlated to eliminate these error results.

The report/workplan shall include the evaluation investigation methods for both the materials and structural elements, analysis, and repair details if needed. Public Works will review the design professional's report/workplan, conduct a site visit, and may require additional investigation tests and analysis if necessary.