

Los Angeles Wildfires

Phase 1: Hazardous Material Removal



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to survey, remove, and dispose of hazardous materials from properties burned by wildfires in Los Angeles County.

- EPA's work removing hazardous materials is **Phase 1** of the federal cleanup response.
- Phase 2 is debris removal and will be coordinated by FEMA

Phase 1 has started and is done at no cost to residents.

EPA will remove potentially dangerous everyday products like:

- ✓ Paint
- ✓ Cleaners and solvents
- ✓ Oils
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Pesticides

EPA will remove lithium-ion batteries from vehicles, homes, and other products.

EPA will remove visible asbestos and inspect pressurized fuel cylinders (like propane tanks).

- After a fire, these products require special handling, especially if their containers are damaged.
- EPA field teams will also remove items thought to have asbestos if they are easy to identify, but the property will not be *fully* cleared until **Phase 2 (debris removal)**.



Examples of hazardous materials that will be removed.



Empty containers EPA inspects will be marked with a white X, made safe, and left to be removed during Phase 2.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will EPA remove hazardous materials from my property?

1. An EPA-led team will survey your property for work conditions.
2. A second EPA-led team will remove hazardous materials.
3. Once complete, the EPA will place a sign on your property (*like the sign to the right*).

If it is not safe for EPA teams to enter your property, hazardous material removal will be done during Phase 2 (debris removal)

EPA will only remove hazardous materials.

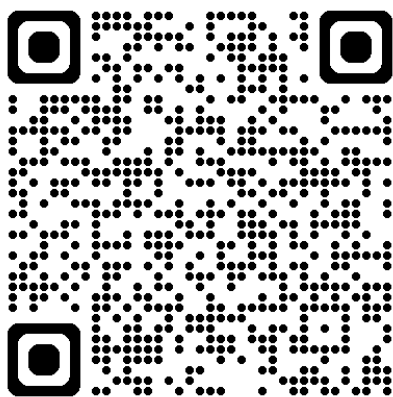
- If firearms (that appear to be functional) or suspected remains are found, EPA will stop work and contact local law enforcement for handling.

Why are hazardous materials removed?

- Hazardous materials are harmful to the environment and residents. These materials need to be safely removed and disposed of before Phase 2 can start.

Do I need to give the EPA permission to enter my property?

- No. The State of California granted EPA authority on January 15, 2025 to access properties without permission from the property owner.



epa.gov/california-wildfires

For questions about EPA's Phase 1 Hazardous Materials removal work, contact our hotline or email us:

**1-833-R9-USEPA
(1-833-798-7372)**

EPALAWildfiresInfo@epa.gov

This property's Hazardous Materials removal is

 **COMPLETE**

✓ Ash remains a health hazard
✓ Read local health advisories before entering burned areas

Contact with us questions:

1-833-R9-USEPA
(1-833-798-7372)

epa.gov/california-wildfires



EPALAWildfiresInfo@epa.gov

Los Angeles Wildfires

Lithium-ion batteries burned by wildfires



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been assigned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to remove lithium-ion batteries affected by the Los Angeles County wildfires.

This includes battery:

- recovery
- safe transportation
- processing (de-energizing)
- safe disposal



Use extreme caution when returning to your property



Your home may have damaged or destroyed lithium-ion batteries, lithium-ion battery energy storage systems, and electric and hybrid vehicles.

- ✓ **The batteries should be considered extremely dangerous**, even if they look intact.
- ✓ **Lithium-ion batteries can spontaneously re-ignite, explode, and emit toxic gases and particulates even after the fire is out.**

Household Items with Lithium-Ion Batteries:



Other examples:

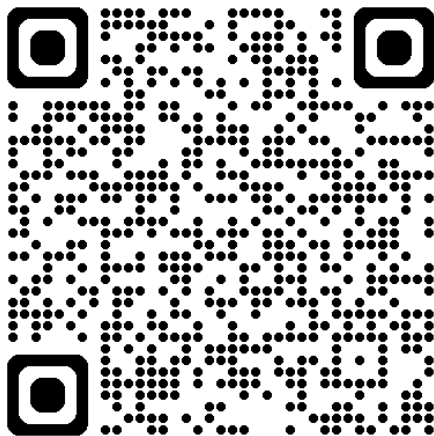
- Electric/hybrid vehicles
- Electric bikes
- Hoverboards
- Wheelchairs
- Digital cameras
- Home alarms
- Power banks or stations
- Game controllers
- Home energy storage systems
- Personal mobility device
- Scooters
- Drones
- Tablets
- Power tools
- Vaping devices

If you hear a popping, hissing noise, or see smoke or fire:

1. Do not attempt to extinguish or smother the battery.
2. Leave the area immediately.
3. Move upwind at least 330 ft (the length of a football field) and **call 911**.

- **Do not** touch fire-damaged products with lithium-ion batteries – they can ignite.
- **Do not** start, move, tow, or charge a fire-damaged electric/hybrid vehicles (EV, PHEV, HEV). These will be assessed by EPA hazardous material professionals.
- **Do not** use or start a fire-damaged residential energy storage or house battery. These will be assessed by EPA hazardous material professionals.
- **Do not** enter enclosed spaces with lithium-ion battery products.
 - Gasses and vapors from damaged lithium-ion batteries can build up in enclosed spaces (such as a garage, shed, basement, or closet) and may produce an explosive environment.

- **DO** call our hotline if you encounter a lithium-ion battery while re-entering your property and/or are unsure if a lithium-ion battery was damaged.



epa.gov/california-wildfires

For questions about this work or **if you have an electric or hybrid vehicle and/or a battery energy storage system in the burn zone**, call the EPA hotline at:

**1-833-R9-USEPA
(1-833-798-7372)**