

Management of Los Angeles County Wildfire Debris

To ensure the safety of workers, the Public, and the environment, certain protocols must be followed during a wildfire disaster when removing **structural** ash and debris left from the fire. The Los Angeles County (County) is offering **two ways** for property owners to manage the debris and ash from the wildfire disaster.

1. Property Owners Who Choose to Participate in the Government-Run Debris Removal Program.

Residential properties with destroyed structure(s) from the wildfires are being offered a clean-up and debris removal service conducted by specialized work crews contracted and managed by federal and state waste specialists. Under limited circumstances, some commercial properties may be eligible as well. This program is being paid for with state and federal funds. To avoid duplication of benefits, if property owners have a specified amount for debris removal in their insurance policy, they will need to provide that specified amount to the County for reimbursement of some of the costs of the clean-up. However, a property owner may participate in the program even if the property is not insured. Owners must sign up for this program by completing a Right-of-Entry Permit form (ROE) to allow access to their property to complete the debris removal work. ROE forms received after the **March 31, 2025** deadline date may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Additional information and the Right-of-Entry Permit form are available here: <https://recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal/>.

2. Property Owners Who Choose Not to Participate in the Government-Run Debris Removal Program or are currently ineligible.

Due to the public health emergency, property owners are required to clean their property and remove all burn debris in a timely manner. If property owners choose not to participate in the Government-Run Debris Removal Program described above (or if properties are ineligible), they may do so at their own expense with work performed by qualified personnel as set forth below.

Property owners must submit a “**Los Angeles County Local Debris Removal Program (Opt-out) Application**” to the County for approval before **March 31, 2025**, and at least two weeks prior to commencing debris removal.

Debris Removal Permits are issued by the EPIC-LA online permit system. Both the owner and contractor must have an account registered in EPIC-LA to complete the permit: (https://epicla.lacounty.gov/energov_prod/SelfService/#/home/).

As part of the permit process, the owner is to provide an asbestos report performed by a Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC) indicating no asbestos onsite. All asbestos and asbestos-containing materials (ACM) must be removed by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor and abated before debris removal can begin.

Upon permit issuance, the work must be completed pursuant to standards set forth by the County and State. The enclosed Los Angeles County Local Debris Removal Program Standards are established to ensure the protection of public health and are the same standards applicable to the Government-Run Debris Removal Program.

Appropriately licensed contractors must remove, transport, and dispose of all fire ash and debris, hazard trees, metals, and concrete from the site properly in a manner that does not create a nuisance at the site or to the public. Only contractors with a HAZ endorsement (https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Media_Room/Disaster_Help_Center/) may be utilized for fire debris removal as the material is considered hazardous under state regulations. Documentation of adequate clean-up and proper disposal will be required.

It is strongly encouraged that property owners review all requirements thoroughly before planning or pursuing their own debris removal. Property owners will not be allowed to build on their property until clean-up and removal of all hazardous debris has been completed and confirmation of completion has been issued through the EPIC-LA system.

3. Owners Who Choose Neither Option Above and Fail to Adequately Remove Debris from Their Property.

Due to the public health danger to the community, owners who choose **not to participate** in the Government-Run Debris Removal Program and who **do not accomplish** an adequate clean-up through the Local Debris Removal Program may be subject to remedial action that may include, but not limited to, hazard removal and/or relocation, clean-up, and site evaluation. All expenses incurred for such mitigation, including but not limited to contract work, staff time, and administration, may be subject to full cost recovery from the owner.

Los Angeles County Local Debris Removal Program Standards

Clean-Up Operations	Protocols
Hours of Operation (Debris Removal Work)	7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday No Operations on Sundays and Holidays (May vary by City; check with your local jurisdiction)
Notifications (PW)	24 hours prior to beginning debris removal activities and after completing debris removal activities, call Los Angeles County Public Works at (626) 458-3517 and leave a message reporting the site location.
Debris Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove ash and debris, metals, and concrete from the site and dispose of them properly. • Recycle metals and concrete, if possible. • Waste must be disposed of at an approved location from the list provided by Public Works.
Air Monitoring	<p>Fugitive Dust – Dust is a significant concern. There must be adequate dust control at all times (water applied to burn ash materials), most importantly during contractor disturbance and loading activities. See “Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site must be visually monitored for fugitive dust. • Dust is to be controlled in a manner that does not generate runoff.
Foundations	<p>Fire-damaged foundations are not typically permitted to be reused due to the intense heat and fire they are exposed to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely remove and dispose of the foundation. • If left in place, approval from the Local Building Official will be required prior to reusing the foundation as part of the building permit for new structures.
Soil Removal	Remove the upper 6 inches of soil to a level visibly clean from the ash footprint once all burn ash and debris have been removed.
Erosion Control	Provide standard erosion control measures after debris removal.
Hazard Tree Removal	<p>Removal of Hazard Trees is the responsibility of the property owner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard trees are to be assessed by an Arborist or Forester • Maintaining a hazard tree is prohibited and subject to any enforcement action available by law.
Appliance and Vehicle Recycling	Appliances and vehicles must be handled properly to meet the requirements of metal recycling facilities. Vehicle identification numbers must be documented.

