

LA County Public Works Fire Debris Removal Permit

Fire Debris Removal Permit Guide

The following must be completed prior to the issuance of the Los Angeles County Fire Debris Removal Permit:

1. A copy of the Asbestos Report from a certified asbestos consultant (CAC) confirming that there is no asbestos onsite or an Asbestos Abatement Clearance letter prepared by the registered asbestos abatement contractor (if abatement was required) must be uploaded to the attachments in EPIC-LA.
2. Proof of Phase I completion of Household Hazardous Waste removal by EPA or USACE.

Please note, only Class A or Class B contractors with a Hazardous Substance Removal Certification (HAZ) or contractors with the specific combination of C-21, C-12 with a HAZ certificate issued by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) may be utilized for the Fire Debris Removal Permit.

Once the Fire Debris Removal (FDR) permit has been issued through County of Los Angeles permitting system EPIC-LA (epicla.lacounty.gov):

- The contractor must follow all requirements outlined on the Fire Debris Removal (FDR) permit.
- Important notifications, directions, and instructions about your FDR permit will be sent to the email entered into EPIC-LA. If you do not receive an email, please check your spam inbox or call (888) 479-7328.
- All required documents must be uploaded to EPIC-LA prior to Final Sign-Off.
- Building permits will not be issued until Final Sign-Off of the FDR permit.

1. Work Notifications

Contractors will be required to notify appropriate agencies prior to work, this may include but is not limited to:

Los Angeles County Public Works

900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

Phone Number: (888) 479-7328

Email: FireDebrisPermit@dpw.lacounty.gov

48 Hour Notice to Begin Work: Prior to beginning debris removal activities, submit notification to the online notification system: <https://forms.office.com/g/NyFNDyQAXX>

- Provide the property owner name, email, phone number, property address, permit number, contractor name, and contractor phone number.

Unincorporated Los Angeles County Properties: Request for Final Inspection submitting email to FireDebrisPermit@dpw.lacounty.gov.

- The site must be cleared of all equipment and all final erosion control devices must be placed.
- The County will respond to the request to coordinate a date and time for final inspection.

Debris Removal Operations Working Hours: Work hours may vary by jurisdiction, please check with your local building official

Unincorporated Los Angeles County Debris Removal Operations Working Hours:

7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday thru Friday

8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday

No Operations on Sunday and Holidays

Underground Service Alert (USA): Call 811 Dig Alert prior to digging.

South Coast Air Quality Management District: Online Notification required only for demolition (removing standing walls, fireplaces or foundations) or cleanup of asbestos found in an asbestos survey (an asbestos survey is required for all properties.) – Please contact AQMD’s Asbestos Program with questions at Rule1403Notifications@aqmd.com.

2. Foundations

The structural integrity of concrete and masonry will be adversely affected in fire situations, especially when the structure is completely consumed by the fire. The properties of the materials may be irreversibly altered deeming it unsatisfactory for reuse in supporting a rebuilt structure.

If foundations remain in place, an approval from the Los Angeles County Building and Safety or the City Building Official will be required prior to reusing the foundation as part of the building permit process for new structures.

Note: If appropriate strengths cannot be determined by testing and analyses by the property owner’s engineer, the Building Official may require foundations to be removed at the property owners’ expense prior to issuing a building permit.

For properties in the County of Los Angeles Building and Safety jurisdiction please refer to the following link:

[https://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/lib/fp/Building/Structural%20and%20Technical/Reuse%20of%20Existing%20Foundation%20Systems%20in%20a%20Fire%20Damaged%20Structure%20\(Rev%202002-2025\).pdf](https://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/lib/fp/Building/Structural%20and%20Technical/Reuse%20of%20Existing%20Foundation%20Systems%20in%20a%20Fire%20Damaged%20Structure%20(Rev%202002-2025).pdf)

For properties in City jurisdictions please refer to their respective City requirements.

3. Earth Retaining Structures and Pools

Foundations and other structures should be assessed for viability to remain in place. If remaining structures are necessary for site stability (i.e. retaining structures), they should not be removed until a permanent stability measure is proposed and permitted. Site conditions will vary, therefore some of the remaining structures should be considered as part of the rebuilding stage.

All swimming pools and spas must be enclosed with a protective fence to prevent drowning, injuries, or other risks and maintained to prevent mosquitos from breeding. For Los Angeles County Public Health standards, please refer to Swimming Pools After a Fire (<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/safety/swimming-pools-after-fire.pdf>).

4. Sewer Laterals and Water Access

Sewer laterals shall be excavated and properly capped within the private property if the foundation is removed to prevent debris from entering the sewer system. The cap shall be placed downstream of any fire damage to the sewer lateral, but within private property. The location of the sewer cap is to be properly staked and easily identifiable on the field.

For all Jurisdictions, contractors shall provide:

- Photo(s) of the sewer cap
- Site sketch with approximate lateral distances from property lines and depth of the sewer cap (or clean-out extension of closed cap)

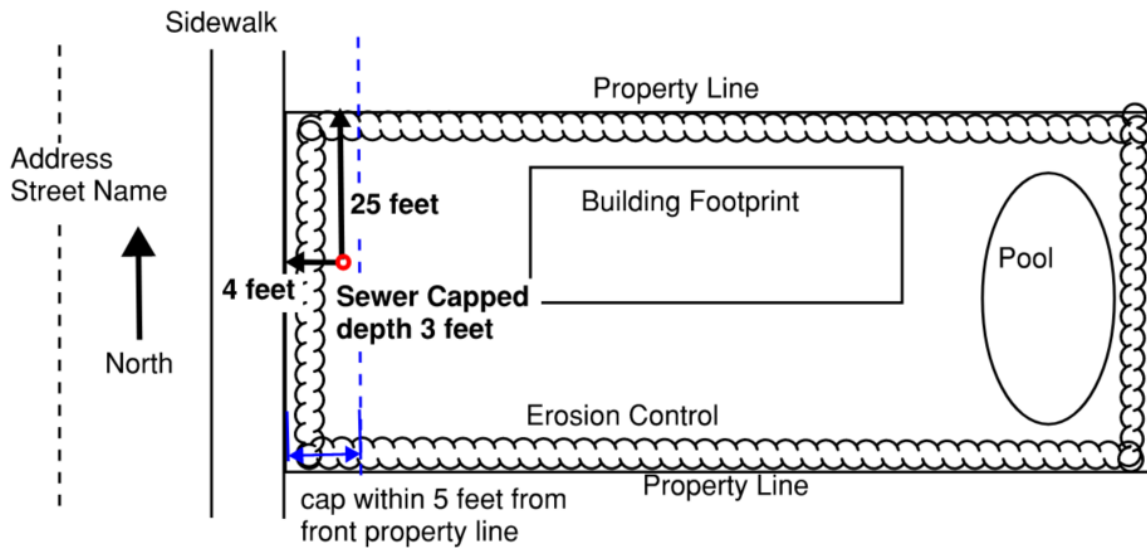
The County will work with contractors to verify field locations. These items are to be provided as Post Debris Removal Documents to avoid delays in the closure of the Fire Debris Removal Permit.

For the City of Los Angeles Jurisdiction, the city requires a visual inspection of the sewer cap. The sewer cap must be located within the first 5 feet from the front property line. The contractor should send the 48-hour notification of the start of work only when the sewer cap is ready to be visually inspected.

For instructions on how to proceed if fire damage extends into the public right of way, or if you have a septic system, contact through the Bureau of Engineering's Customer Portal at <https://engpermits.lacity.org/public/Home/Services>.



Picture 1 & 2: Examples of capped sewer lines. Stake or flag the location of the sewer line on the property.



SITE SKETCH - LOCATION OF SEWER CAP STAKED IN THE FEILD

Figure 1: Example of Site Sketch of capped sewer lines. Stake or flag the location of the sewer line on the property.

Prior to construction activities commencing, consult with the local water authority to determine appropriate action on how to gain access to water. Accessing water without a construction meter or bypassing residential water meters is prohibited at all times.

5. Best Management Practices for Fugitive Dust Control

Property owners or their contractors must provide water or an approved dust palliative, or both, to prevent a dust nuisance at the site. Refer to AQMD Rule 403 - Fugitive Dust (<https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-403.pdf?sfvrsn=4>) for more details. Dust resulting from performance of the work will be controlled at all times in a manner that does not generate runoff. Dust Control Methods include:

- Control 1 - Water or an approved dust palliative, or both, will be used to prevent dust nuisance at each site. Each area of ash and debris to be removed will be pre-watered with a fine spray nozzle, 48 to 72 hours in advance of the removal.
- Control 2 - All loads shall be covered with a tarp; this includes metal debris. Ash and debris loads shall be fully encapsulated with 10-mil plastic (“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.
- Control 3 - All waste material that is not unloaded at the end of each workday will be consolidated, sufficiently wetted, and/or covered to prevent the offsite migration of contaminants.
- Control 4 - All visibly dry disturbed soil surface areas of operation should be watered to minimize dust emissions during performance of work.
- Control 5 - Speeds must be reduced when driving on unpaved roadways.
- Control 6 - Procedures outlined below will be implemented to prevent or minimize dirt, soil, or ash contaminating roadways, neighboring parcels, or creating an airborne health hazard.
 - Trackout Management: The Contractor must implement procedures to prevent and cleanup trackout.
 - The Contractor shall prevent trackout or immediately remove trackout at each entry and exit point of a site and at the minimum remove all other visible trackout at the end of each workday.
 - Cleanup of trackout shall be accomplished by:
 - Manually sweeping and picking-up; or

- Operating a rotary brush or broom accompanied or preceded by sufficient wetting; or Operating a PM10-efficient street sweeper.
- The use of blower devices, or dry rotary brushes or brooms for removing trackout on a public/private road is prohibited.

6. Debris Removal

Remove ash and debris, hazard trees, metals, and concrete from the site and dispose of properly. Metals and concrete shall be recycled if possible. Appliances and vehicles must be handled properly to meet the requirements of metals recycling facilities. After debris removal, all pools must be secured with temporary fencing and maintained to prevent mosquitos from breeding. Vehicle Identification Numbers must be documented. All waste must be disposed of at an approved location, the approved list will be provided by Los Angeles County Public Works.

Debris removal must be conducted on each site in the following order:

1. Drop standing chimneys down to ground level. All standing chimneys must be taken down with proper dust control.
2. Segregate and remove all recyclable debris from the site.
3. Remove ash and commingled debris from the site.
4. Remove fire damaged concrete foundations (if applicable, please see Foundations section above), within the former footprint, from the site.
5. Remove 6 inches of residual soil from debris site for disposal.

Note: Straight edged bucket or a steel beam should be used on the final scrape to prevent the pushing the ash and debris into the soil from the teeth on a standard excavator bucket.

Debris removal must include the following:

- Initiate contact with adjacent property owners, if applicable, to notify the estimated commencement of debris removal activities.
- Remove vehicles for recycling or disposal. DMV requirements will apply.
- Collect, consolidate, and remove metals for recycling.
- Collect, consolidate, and remove concrete for recycling.
- Collect, consolidate, and remove ash, debris and soil for disposal.
- Track and log quantities and types of materials transported to landfill or recycling facility.

Note: If adequate documentation is not provided to show that the site has been cleaned, property owners may be required to perform confirmation soil sampling and additional soil removal to demonstrate adequate clean up prior to final approval.

- Finish grading/smoothing ground surface.



Picture 3 & 4: Example of appropriate level of debris removal and foundation clearance (Palisades Fire 2025). Erosion Control will be implemented to prevent sediment runoff.

7. Soil Removal

Remove the upper 6-inches of soil from the impacted area after burn ash and debris is removed to a level of visually clean. Additional areas of removal may be necessary to accommodate complex foundation systems.

The contractor shall not channelize drainage or direct drainage to an adjacent property. The contractor shall generally convey drainage towards the street while implementing erosion control to keep sediment on site.

A grading permit may be required as part of the rebuilding process if soil removal exceeds the upper 6-inches or if the earthwork is not within the exemptions stated in Los Angeles County Public Works Grading Guidelines: https://pw.lacounty.gov/idd/iddservices/docs/grading_guidelines.pdf



Picture 5: Example of appropriate level of soil removal and foundation clearance (Palisades Fire 2025). Erosion Control will be implemented to prevent sediment runoff.

8. Hazard Tree Removal

A “Hazard Tree” shall mean wildfire-damaged trees that have been so damaged by the fires that their structural integrity is compromised and that pose an immediate threat of falling onto work crews or obstructing their access to the debris clearance site or falling onto a public right of way or public improved property.

All hazard trees must be assessed by an Arborist or Forester to identify if they are “non-hazard”. Maintaining a hazard tree may be deemed a public nuisance and subject to any enforcement process available by law. Removal of Hazard Trees is the responsibility of the property owner.

9. Erosion Control

When active fire ends it leaves behind bare dirt or decreased vegetative cover. Because of the loss of vegetation, the top layer of soil can become loosened, making it vulnerable to increased runoff, erosion and sedimentation. Erosion and sediment stabilization practices must be implemented to keep sediment and debris on the subject site.

Erosion Control should include the following:

- Perimeter controls are established and effective at controlling erosion and sediment discharges from the site.
- Entrances and exits are stabilized to control erosion and sediment discharges from the site.
- Sediment basins are placed for locations of high drainage and erosion.
- Linear sediment control along toe of slope, face of slope and at grade breaks.
- Limit construction activity to and from site to entrances and exits that employ effective controls to prevent offsite tracking.

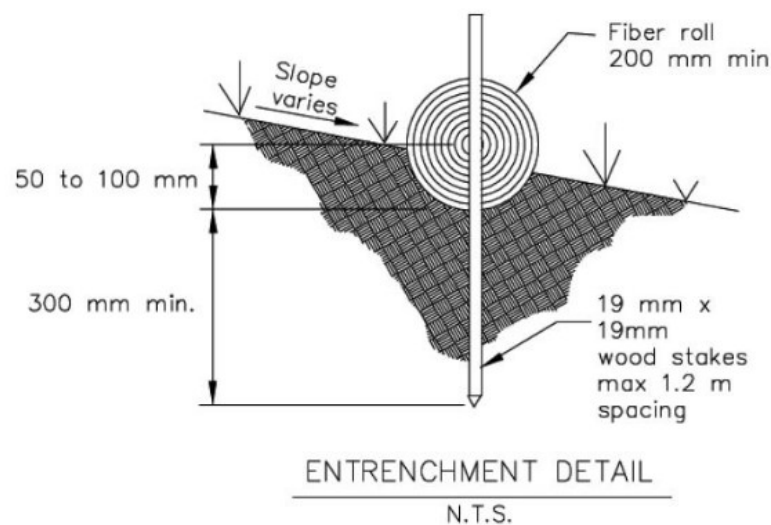


Figure 2: Typical Fiber Roll Installation as a method of erosion control.

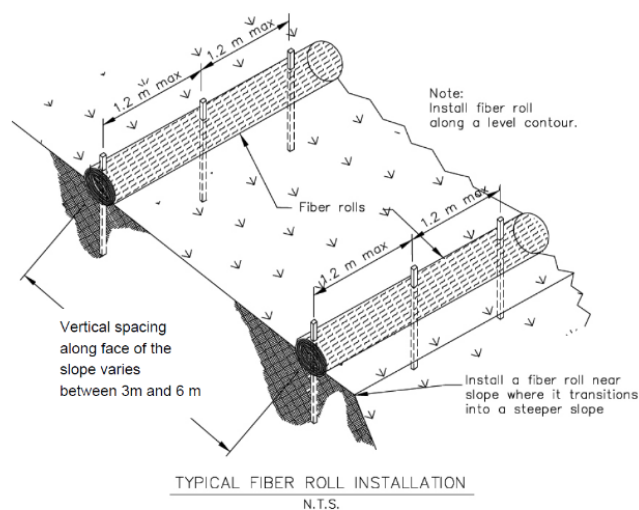


Figure 3: Entrenchment Detail for Typical Fiber Roll Installation as a method of erosion control.

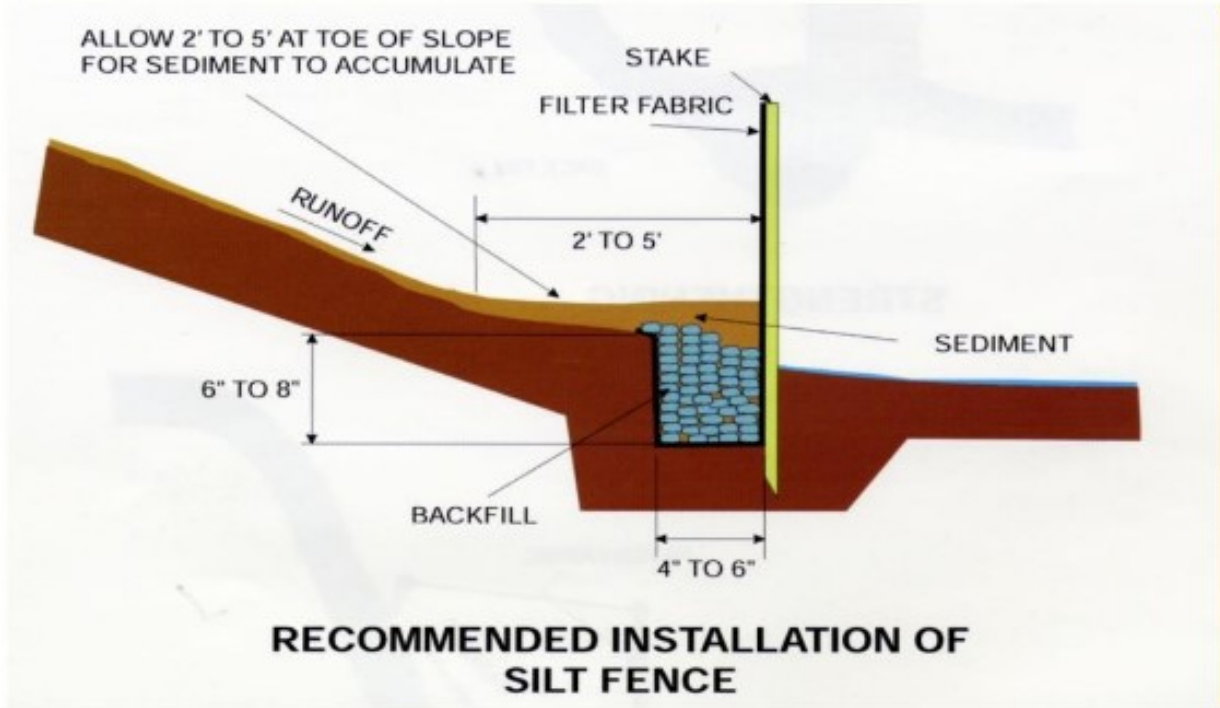


Figure 4: Typical Installation of Silt Fence as a method of erosion control.



Picture 6: Example of appropriate level of erosion control with hydro-mulch (Eaton Fire 2025). Erosion Control must be implemented to prevent sediment runoff.



Picture 7: Example of appropriate level of erosion control with hydro-mulch (Eaton Fire 2025). Erosion Control must be implemented to prevent sediment runoff.

10. Submit Post – Cleanup Documentation

Following the removal of all debris and placement of final erosion control devices, all post debris removal documentation is to be uploaded to EPIC-LA for County Review including:

- Weight tickets and Disposal documents from a certified landfill or recycling facility
- Hazardous Waste Manifest(s) (if applicable)
- Site Photos of the completed site
 - Photos must be taken of the frontage of the property (from the street towards the property).
 - Photos of the building footprint, foundations (as applicable), property lines, any remaining structures, and sewer cap.

11. Request Inspection

For properties within unincorporated County jurisdiction, request a final inspection by submitting an email to FireDebrisPermit@dpw.lacounty.gov. Please be sure to include the property address, FDR permit number, and clearly state that all documentation has been uploaded to EPIC-LA. Once final inspection request has been received, County staff will review all documentation to verify proper disposal of all fire debris and that the property

has been cleared according to the requirements of the Fire Debris Removal Permit. The County will contact the contractor for final inspection as necessary.

12. Fire Debris Removal Permit Closeout

Once all post debris removal documentation has been reviewed and the County has verified site conditions are clear of all fire debris, the County will provide Final Fire Debris Removal Permit Closure and the site is ready for a building permit to be processed.

Note, failure to provide adequate Post Debris Removal Documentation may result in significant delays in issuance of Final Fire Debris Removal Permit Closure.