



Shasta County Department of Resource Management
Environmental Health Division
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HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RE-ENTRY INTO FIRE AFFECTED AREAS

Food Safety

- Perishable food items that have not been properly stored (at or below 41 °F) for more than four hours is not considered safe and must be thrown out.
- If your home has been damaged and you find non-perishable food items we recommend that you DO NOT use them. The containers may appear to be intact but high temperatures may have caused the seams to fail, resulting in the contents being exposed to potential contamination.
- When In Doubt, Throw It Out!!

Water Safety

- If your well has been damaged it may have been exposed to potential contamination and can contaminate surrounding groundwater if not repaired properly. Fire can damage the well casing, electrical conduits and piping. DO NOT use the water for consumption which includes drinking, cooking, dishwashing, oral hygiene, hand washing, bathing and pets. The well must be repaired by a qualified professional, properly disinfected as per Shasta County Environmental Health Division's (SCEHD) requirements and then tested to determine the water is safe for consumption.
 - Qualified professionals include licensed well drillers to fix wells, pump contractors to fix the well pumps and a certified distribution operators to ensure the water system is functioning properly and disinfected. For a list of certified operators contact our office.
 - Once the water system is properly disinfected, your drinking water should be tested for bacteria by a certified lab prior to drinking the water. Please contact the laboratory for proper sampling procedures. Local laboratories include the Shasta County Public Health Laboratory and Basic Laboratory in Redding.

Septic Systems

- Fire can damage your on-site wastewater system (or septic system) and may need to be repaired. Locate your septic system including both tank and leach field. Make an effort to avoid those areas with all heavy equipment. The damage is most likely to be between the system and your home but may also include damage to the underground tank from bulldozers and other heavy equipment. The system must be repaired under permit by a qualified professional as per SCEHD's requirements.

Debris and Hazardous Waste

- Fire damage can create significant health and safety hazards that may be present at individual properties and it is recommended that debris cleanup be conducted by appropriately licensed professional contractors. If the property owner chooses to conduct site cleanup appropriate safety precautions include protective clothing and masks.

Contact Shasta County Environmental Health Division at (530) 225-5787 should you have questions or need additional information.