

## For Owners of Fire Damaged/Destroyed Properties in the City of Thousand Oaks

If you are the owner of a fire damaged property in the City, your point of contact with the City is Far Levers (805) 449-2421, [flevers@toaks.org](mailto:flevers@toaks.org). She would like to hear from you and assist you through the recovery and rebuilding process.

Before rebuilding can begin, fire debris and ash must be removed from the property site safely. Because of the nature of the materials used in constructing and furnishing homes, fire debris and ash can contain substances such as asbestos, heavy metals and other materials hazardous to health. Thus, special cleanup and removal procedures must be used in order to prevent their migration into the environment.

**Fire debris and ash from burned structures MUST NOT be removed from sites until the property owner has applied for, and been approved for, one of two programs (see Phase II below) – the CalOES/CalRecycle (State) program (NO COST) or the Local (City) program (at homeowner’s expense).**

Please do NOT authorize contractors on to your property site to begin debris removal. Waste haulers are prohibited from delivering debris bins to affected sites, and landfills are not permitted to accept structural fire debris without authorization through one of these two programs.

### **Fire Debris Removal and Cleanup**

There are 2 phases to site cleanup:

#### **Phase I – NO COST**

- In Phase I, visible household hazardous waste is removed from the site. This includes chemicals that are ignitable, toxic, corrosive and reactive. Examples include pool chemicals, car batteries, antifreeze, used oil filters, solvents, fertilizers, pesticides, propane tanks, disinfectants, aerosols, paint, bleach, and ammunition. This will be carried out by California’s Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Safe sifting through debris for possible salvageable personal items is permitted but should be done with caution and proper protective gear: eye protection, masks, gloves, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants. Red Cross is providing buckets, shovels, masks and gloves to residents for this purpose. Residents should minimize contact with fire debris, which may contain materials that can be hazardous to health.
- **Phase I began** in the City the week of **December 3** and is expected to be completed before the end of the year.
- Once Phase I is completed the property will be marked with yellow laminated sign.

#### **Phase II**

In Phase II fire debris is removed. The property owner can opt to participate in the State’s program (no cost to homeowner), or in the City’s Local Program (at homeowner’s expense). Property owners must participate in one of the two available programs. The property owner is not permitted to start cleanup of the site or remove debris until they are approved through either the CalRecycle or Local Phase II program.

#### **CalOES/CalRecycle Program**

- The program is streamlined to cover all aspects of cleanup, preparation, and certification for new construction to begin. **There is no cost to the property owner.**
- A Community Meeting will take place on **Monday Dec 10 in the Founders Room at City Hall, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.** CalRecycle and its contractors, along with City and County representatives will be present to answer questions on debris removal. **This meeting is for owners of properties damaged or destroyed in the fires ONLY.**
- Property owners must apply for this program. An **Intake Center to accept applications will open on Dec 11** in the Acorn Room at City Hall. It will be open 8:00 – 5:00 Dec 11 – 13 and Dec 17 – Dec 21.
- The application is a **Right to Entry (ROE) form available here.** Any insurance proceeds directed toward debris removal that may be available to the property owner must be turned over to the public agencies to partially cover costs.
- **The application deadline for this program will be in early January.** After that date applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **FAQ available here.**
- Debris removal will likely begin in mid-January.
- Only fully destroyed residential properties are eligible for the CalRecycle program. If in doubt, property owners should apply and CalRecycle will make the determination.
- Cleanup is expected take one to three months. At completion, CalRecycle will issue a final inspection certification that verifies that the site is clean and eligible for a building permit. No City building permit will be issued until this is received by the City.

### **Local Program**

- Property owners electing not to participate in, or ineligible for, CalRecycle's Phase II program must enroll in the City's Local Program and hire their own contractors.
- Property owners will be responsible for cleanup, soil sampling, erosion control and final inspection in accordance with standards set by the Local Program, which will be the same as those of the CalRecycle program.
- The **Local Program is anticipated to be available beginning December 20**, subject to Council approval. Application forms, guidelines, templates and a resource list will be made available here.
- Upon completion of the work, the property owner shall submit a Property Clean-up Completion Certification to the City. No City building permit will be issued until this is received by the City.
- All costs associated with participation in the Local Program are borne by the property owner.
- **Partially burned or damaged structures** will need to apply through the Local Program – a modified version of this will be available for these properties.

### **Resources**

Additional resources and information is posted at the County's fire recovery website: <http://venturacountyrecovers.org/>. Please register at that site to receive regular updates.