



October 24, 2007
 Source: Gathered from various public sources. Information reliable but not guaranteed.

AFTER THE FIRESTORM

Returning to the Fire Zone:

Residents returning to fire damaged homes need to take many precautions. The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health warns that hazardous materials as well as structural damage pose serious threats to your health and safety. It is strongly advised you watch out for the following:

- Charred power poles and trees that may be unstable and fall.
- Live power lines lying on the ground.
- Small fires that may flare up without warning.
- Ash pits, which are holes filled with hot ash created by burned trees.

Take the following precautions when attempting to enter your house:

- Check for any structural damage before entering your home. If you are uncertain, have your home professionally inspected before returning.
- Check for burning embers on roofs, gutters, porches, attic, crawlspace, and throughout your property for several days after a wildfire.
- Do not smoke or attempt to light anything as there could be flammables or leaking gases. Use a flashlight instead.
- Check to see if your gas utility is working properly. If you smell gas, shut off the gas supply at the main valve, leave your home immediately, and call your gas company.
- Check to see if your electricity is working properly. If the electricity is not working, check to see if the main breaker is on. If there is still no power, call SDG&E 1-800-411-7343.
- Open windows and doors to allow airflow, which will help dry out of any water damage areas.

After you have checked your home, contact your county government to check and see if you will need clearance from a damage assessment team before beginning to clean up. For more information on damage assessment call (858) 694-3876.

NOTE:

Do not start any clean up in the unincorporated area of the county until you have been cleared by a County damage assessment team. You could jeopardize your FEMA or insurance claims. For more information call 211.

Clean-Up Safety

As some residents are allowed back into their homes and neighborhoods by officials, there are several precautions they should take as they begin the task of cleaning up.

- Avoid disseminating ash into the air; do not use leaf blowers or non-HEPA filter vacuums.
- The Regional Water Control Quality Board asks that you avoid washing ash into storm drains, if possible.
- Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts and long pants to avoid skin contact.
- If you do get ash on your skin, wash it off as soon as possible.
- Clean off childrens toys and outdoor pet areas.
- Wear well-fitting dust masks; those rated N-95 or P-100 provide better protection than simple dust or surgical masks. Persons with heart or lung disease should consult a physician before using a mask.
- Lightly mist indoor and outdoor hard surfaces before gently sweeping ash, followed by wet mopping. On lightly dusted areas, a damp cloth or wet mop may be all that is needed.
- Collected ash may be disposed of in your regular trash collection. Ash may be stored in plastic bags or other containers that will prevent it from being disturbed. Ash deposited on indoor and outdoor surfaces near the fire is relatively non-toxic and is similar to ash that might be found in your fireplace. However, any ash may be irritating to the skin, can be irritating to the nose and throat if breathed, and may cause coughing may trigger asthmatic attacks in people who already have asthma.

In these times of need

Chicago Title

also wants to help...

Chicago Title offers to those families whose homes were partially or totally destroyed by the recent fires, a 50% title insurance rate*.

Call for more information...

*the rate applies to a lender's policy (ALTA or CLTA form) which is not in excess of \$5,000,000 covering the financing or refinancing by an owner of record, within 24 months of the date of a declaration of a disaster area by the government of the United States or the State of California any land located in the said area, which was partially or totally destroyed in the disaster, will be 50% of basic rate. Minimum \$395.



Chicago Title

Insuring homeowners for 160 years