



County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency
Environmental Health

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CZU Lightning Complex Fire Cleanup Process Summary

There are several steps and owner choices involved in the CZU Lightning Complex Fire property cleanup process. This summary is intended to give property owners an overview of the required cleanup steps and the choices they may have to make during the process. If you have additional questions regarding the CZU Lightning Complex Fire property cleanup, please go to [SantaCruzCounty/FireRecovery](https://www.sccounty.gov/FireRecovery).

Phase I

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or their contractors are authorized and required by the Governor's executive order to access your property to remove hazardous household waste (e.g., propane tanks, compressed gas cylinders, solvents, etc.). **You do not have to take any action for Phase I of the cleanup process.** When Phase I is completed for your property, a marker will be placed on your property indicating Phase I is complete.

Phase II

Please note that Phase II cleanup is required for properties where a qualifying structure of 120 square feet or more has been destroyed by the CZU Lightning Complex Fire. If your property did **not** include a qualifying structure as outlined in the Government Sponsored Debris Removal Program (Government (CalOES) Program) you are not required to complete the Property Owner Application to Hire a Private Contractor for Fire Debris Removal. If this describes your property, contact the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division to obtain a certificate to bring your debris to the waste facility (Appendix B).

Property owners have two options for Phase II of the cleanup process.

Property owners may not perform Phase II cleanup themselves – owners are required to engage in the Government (CalOES) Program **or** hire properly licensed and certified contractors and consultants to complete cleanup in the Private Contractor Program. Owners that meet the same qualifications listed for contractors or consultants may perform the work they are qualified to do on the property they own as part of their work plan under the Private Contractor Program.

¹This document sometimes refers to property owners, owners, contractors, consultants or you. These terms all refer to the property owner and his or her duties, as an owner is required to use contractors and consultants to complete the cleanup process.

1. Government Sponsored Debris Removal Program (Government (Cal OES) Program)	
Right of Entry Permit	<p>Property owner(s) fill out and execute the Right of Entry permit and provide specific instructions for the Government (CalOES) Program and/or its contractor for the work plan.</p> <p><u>All debris removal activities under the Government (CalOES) Program will be provided at no direct cost to the property owner(s).</u></p>
Asbestos Inspection and Removal	Government (CalOES) Program tests properties for asbestos and removes large obvious chunks of asbestos material.
Site Documentation	Government (CalOES) Program actor documents the state of the property before removal of debris, including details such as property size, units in an apartment building, number of cars, etc.
Ash and Debris Cleanup	Government (CalOES) Program remove all debris and ash and scrape the lot clean. Government CalOES Program <u>will contact owners before this step occurs.</u>
Hazardous Tree Removal	Government (CalOES) Program remove hazardous trees on the property that may compromise the safety of crews working on the site or hinder the debris clean-up process.
Erosion Control	Government (CalOES) Program implements erosion control measures as needed for each cleaned property.

2. Private Contractor Fire Debris Removal Program (Private Contractor Program)	
Choose the right Contractor	<p>Property owners are required to choose a contractor with the proper California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) licensing and certifications to perform the ash and debris cleanup work, including hazardous material and asbestos removal. The CSLB website has information to assist property owners with requirements: http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesandPublications/DebrisRemovalFacts.pdf</p> <p>You can verify a contractor’s licensing at the CSLB website: https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx <u>In addition to a contractor, fire debris removal will require the support of Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC) as well as an Environmental Consultant.</u></p> <p>It is recommended that property owners verify that contractors and consultants have adequate insurance and that the owner is included as an additional insured under the contractor’s insurance policy for the cleanup work.</p>

Application/ Work plan	<p>Property owners are required to work with their contractor to prepare a work plan for the Private Contractor Program using the guidelines following this summary. Submit the prepared plan to the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division, 701 Ocean Street, Suite 312, Santa Cruz or to CZUDebris@sanatacruzcounty.us or by completing the application and associated documents online at www.santacruzcounty.us/FireRecovery. Applications will begin being processed October 12, 2020</p>
Site Preparation/ Documentation	<p>Property owners, with their contractor, are required to document, photograph and measure the property and notify utilities as described more fully below.</p>
Ash and Debris Cleanup	<p>Property owners, through their contractor, are required to clean the property of ash and debris and remove asbestos and/or hazardous waste to Government (CalOES) Program standards. Property owners are required to take dust prevention measures, grade soil, test soil samples, remove appliances and take erosion control measures. The requirements are described more fully in the Guidelines following this Summary.</p>
Foundation Removal or Retention	<p>Property owners, through their contractor, are required to remove the structural foundation or provide a letter from a licensed Civil or Structural Engineer certifying that the foundation is suitable for rebuilding, with an explanation and supporting evidence. The decision as to whether the explanation is adequate is in the sole discretion of the Building Official.</p>
Phase II Cleanup Certification	<p>Following completion of the cleanup work, property owners, with their contractor, are required to submit a final report to the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division for review. The Environmental Health Division will issue an Private Contractor Fire Debris Removal Program Cleanup Completion Certificate if the cleanup has met the Private Contractor Program standards. The decision as to whether the cleanup has met the Private Contractor Program standards is in the sole discretion of the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Division.</p>

If you or your contractor discover possible human remains at any time during Phase II, please stop the cleanup process immediately and call the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Dispatch at 831-471-1121.

Owners Who Fail to Adequately Remove Debris from Their Property

Due to the dangers to the public health, welfare and environment, if property owners choose not to participate in the Government (CalOES) Program and also do not complete an adequate cleanup through the Private Contractor Program, they may be subject to enforcement actions. Such actions may include, but not be limited to, hazard removal and/or relocation, cleanup, site evaluation, soil testing, and/or chemical analysis. **All expenses incurred for such inspection and mitigation, including but not limited to, abatement costs, expenses, and attorney's fees, are subject to full cost recovery from the owner with a lien recorded on the property.** Deadlines for completing an adequate cleanup through the Private Contractor Program will be set by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.