



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eldorado National Forest
Placerville Ranger District

4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
(530) 647-5354 (Voice)
(530) 647-5344 (TTY)

File Code: 2720

Date: November 19, 2021

Dear Permittee,

This letter is to update you regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 of lot cleanup after the Caldor Fire.

On October 19th, 2021, I sent a letter to you informing you that over the next few months, the Forest Service would fund and conduct removal of household hazardous material at your recreation residence lot (Phase 1). I wanted to let you know that these Phase 1 operations are now complete.

You may now submit your preliminary Phase 2 lot cleanup plan to the Forest Service for Forest Service written approval. The enclosed El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program Application can be used to do so. Please complete, scan as a pdf document and send via email to SM.FS.PVL-Rec-Res@usda.gov

To help you understand the expected scope of this task, the state and county guidelines related to debris removal that the Forest Service is following are available online at:

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/Documents/Caldor%20Fire/100821%20EDC%20FINAL%20Alt%20Program%20Plan.pdf>

El Dorado County has the authority to define the cleanup procedures so please follow the steps and contacts within this document closely. With the ongoing drying trend for this fall, it is possible you may be able to begin debris cleanup immediately.

The Forest Service will conduct an individual site assessment and cost estimate next spring for debris removal at each cabin location. This effort will ensure the sites are restored to the proper level as described in the El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program documents referenced in the online link above.

If your cabin lot does not clear this review, we will contract with a vendor to complete this work. It is expected that this cost will be significantly higher than if a private contractor completed the work for you. In addition, you may find that working with your insurer or contracting the work yourself is a more expeditious way to move forward than waiting for the Forest Service's operations next spring and summer.



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Finally, I will provide information to you on the process the Forest Service will use to consider the authorization of rebuilding your cabin in the near future.

Throughout the Caldor Fire disaster, we have coordinated closely with the National Forest Homeowners. I encourage you to reach out to them at <https://www.nationalforesthomeowners.org> for suggestions on how to best move forward.

As always, if you have questions regarding your permit or this letter, please reach out to your local Placerville Ranger District permit administrator, Nancy Platt, by telephone at **530-647-5354** or by email at **SM.FS.PVL-Rec-Res@usda.gov**

Sincerely,



SCOT ROGERS
District Ranger

Enclosures: El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program Application
Recreation Residence Clean-up and Debris Removal Process

Caldor Fire Disaster Recreation Residence Clean-up and Debris Removal Process

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and steps to follow for clean-up and debris removal for cabin owners who have lost a cabin/structure under a Recreation Residence Special Use Permit. Hazardous materials, ash and debris may be dangerous and must be dealt with in a certain way to keep the public and the environment safe. The Forest Service has partnered with US EPA to complete Phase 1 Household Hazardous Waste clean-up and the Forest Service covered the cost. Recreation Residence permit holders are responsible to complete the remaining Phase 2 cleanup through the El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program.

Access and Safety

To gain access into the Forest Closure area, FS-7700-48 Restricted Use Permits will be needed until the Forest Closure is lifted. Contact your permit administrator for this access before initiating cleanup.

Permittee Responsibilities

- As stated in the special use permit, the clean-up is the permittee's responsibility, whether or not they decide to rebuild (FSH 2709.11-Ch.40 – Supplement No. R5-2709.11-2021-1 [41.23(4)]).
- El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program guidelines will apply and are available at <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/Documents/Caldor%20Fire/100821%20EDC%20FINAL%20Alt%20Program%20Plan.pdf>

All state and local county guidelines will need to be followed regarding debris cleanup. Please note that county and state assistance programs do not apply to cabin permit holders on federal land.

- The 3 page **El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program Application** with contractor information and expected completion dates will need to be submitted via email first to the Forest Service permit administrator at SM.FS.PVL-Rec-Res@usda.gov and then to the county.
- Cabin permit holders may want to consider working together to hire one contractor per affected tract or several tracts. This will possibly reduce the cost to the permittees and would limit the amount of equipment in the area.
- If a permittee has already made the decision to not rebuild, the site will need to be restored to the natural state (all evidence of a cabin being on the site will need to be removed; chimneys, foundations, septic tanks etc.)
- The Forest Service will need to be notified when the cleanup process is complete.

Time Frames

- A deadline to perform site cleanup has not yet been determined. Please provide a timeframe for expected cleanup completion.
- The Forest Service will conduct an individual site assessment and cost estimate next spring for debris removal at each cabin location.
- If your cabin lot does not clear this review, the Forest Service will contract with a vendor to complete the Phase 2 lot cleanup and bill you. It is expected that the cost to you will be significantly higher than if a private contractor completed the work for you.

Rebuilding

- The Forest Service will complete an analysis for each site to determine the status of rebuilding. This will likely not happen until Spring 2022. Permittees will be notified by letter if the site is eligible to rebuild.
- A document outlining the steps for the rebuilding process will be provided at a later date. Those who decide not to rebuild will still be required to clean-up and then restore their lot to natural conditions.

Additional Resources

- El Dorado County Alternative Debris Removal Program
<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/Documents/Caldor%20Fire/100821%20EDC%20FINAL%20Alt%20Program%20Plan.pdf>
- US Environmental Protection Agency Caldor Fire Phase 1 Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup
(Click on the USFS Caldor tab on the far right and zoom in on the map to view status by lot)
<https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/epas-2021-california-fire-response>
- US EPA Household Hazardous Waste Information
<https://www.epa.gov/large-scale-residential-demolition/household-hazardous-waste-and-demolition>
- Eldorado National Forest website
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado/>
- USFS Caldor Fire Recovery Information
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/eldorado/home/?cid=fseprd952172>

Contacts

The new USFS Placerville RD Recreation Residence email address is: **SM.FS.PVL-Rec-Res@usda.gov**

Permit Administrator:	Nancy Platt	SM.FS.PVL-Rec-Res@usda.gov
Assistant Recreation Officer:	Don "Chip" Morrill	don.morrill@usda.gov
Authorized Officer / District Ranger:	Scot Rogers	scot.rogers@usda.gov



El Dorado County Fire Debris Removal

Environmental Management Department

2850 Fairlane Court Bldg C, Placerville, CA 95667

Phone: (530) 621-5300

email: AlternativeProgram@edcgov.us

ALTERNATIVE FIRE DEBRIS REMOVAL PROGRAM APPLICATION

Who needs to complete this form? Private property owners who:

- (1) decide **not** to participate in the Cal OES Consolidated Debris Removal Program (State Program) and choose to clean up their property by hiring a qualified contractor and following the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program (Alternative Program); OR
- (2) own properties with qualifying structures that are not eligible for the State (Cal OES) Program. The owner is required to clean up the property to the standards established in ordinances, regulations and this document, so that health and safety risks are adequately addressed for the community and the environment. The Alternative Program requires owners to provide documentation demonstrating adequate cleanup and proper disposal of debris.

If your property did not include a qualifying structure of 120 square feet or more as outlined in the State (Cal OES) Plan, you are not required to complete the Alternative Fire Debris Removal Program Application. If this describes your property, contact the Environmental Management Department to obtain a certificate to dispose of your ash and debris at a properly permitted landfill.

Please note that State disaster assistance funding will not reimburse property owners for any work completed by a hired contractor under the Alternative Program.

Where do I submit this form? Submit this form to the Environmental Management Department
2850 Fairlane Court Bldg C, Placerville, CA 95667 or email to AlternativeProgram@edcgov.us

Property Owner Name:

Phone(s):

Property Address:

City/State/Zip:

Assessor's Parcel Number (APN):

Email:

Mailing Address:

City/State/Zip:

Description of Debris Being Removed (number and types of structures, types of waste, etc.)

Program Participation

A Licensed Contractor with proper certifications shall perform the ash and debris removal, hazardous materials and asbestos removal and other cleanup work. Contractors must comply with the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) requirements to perform cleanup work under the Alternative Program.

Name of Contractor: _____
License Number: _____
Proposed Start Date: _____

Required: Owners are required to obtain approval from the Environmental Management for the work plan prior to starting debris cleanup. Any employee performing debris removal shall have (at a minimum) OSHA 40-hr HAZWOPER Training in accordance with 29 C.F.R. §1910.120.

A. Property Owner Acceptance of Requirements and Indemnification

I have read and will fully comply, as will any contractor working on my property, with the conditions described in the document titled **“Alternative (Private) Debris Removal ProgramCaldor Fire”** and approved Work Plan. I understand ash and structural debris contain hazardous substances and exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects, and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts and proper disposal of the debris is necessary to limit these impacts. I agree to ensure my contractor will wet down ash and debris before removal and will control dust on the property. I agree to ensure my contractor will completely encapsulate the ash and debris ("burrito wrap" method) and cover with a tarp prior to transportation for proper disposal. I agree to ensure my contractor will collect soil samples and submit analytical results with the Debris Removal Cleanup Certification to certify the project has been completed.

I understand that human remains may be encountered during the cleanup and that due to the extreme heat of the fire, any human remains are likely to consist of bones or bone fragments. I agree that if possible human remains are encountered (including any type of bones) during debris removal efforts, all personnel will be careful not to disturb the possible remains, exit the property, immediately report the possible remains to the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office at (530) 621-5655, and will wait for a search team to arrive and determine whether they are in fact human remains before resuming debris cleanup.

Please initial each of the following statements:

I agree that the decision as to whether the Alternative Program requirements have been met is in the sole discretion of the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department and that such decision is final.

I certify that I am the owner or authorized agent of the real property located at the above address. I hereby certify that I have full power and authority to execute this application without the need for any further action, including but not limited to notice or approval from any other party.

I acknowledge that the decisions made by the County of El Dorado (Local Government) are discretionary functions and Local Government is not liable for any claim based on the exercise or failure to exercise a discretionary function and promise not to make such a claim. I further release and agree to hold and save harmless Local Government from all liability for any damage or loss whatsoever that may occur during or after performance of the Alternative Program activities. I therefore waive any claim or legal action against Local Government.

Property Owner Signature (Required):

Date:

Contractor Signature:

Date:

B. Environmental Management Department Approval

The Environmental Management Department has reviewed the Work Plan for debris removal for the above-referenced property. The Work Plan is complete and is therefore approved. The debris removal project shall not deviate from the approved work plan without written approval from the Environmental Management Department. Whenever necessary to inspect a property to ensure compliance with the approved work plan, any authorized official of the County may, upon presentation of proper credentials, enter such property at all reasonable times to inspect any provision of the approved Work Plan.

Environmental Management Department
Representative Signature:

Print Name and Title:

Date: