



INJURY PREVENTION AFTER A WILDFIRE

Use caution and exercise good judgment when re-entering the burned areas. Hazards may still exist, including hot spots, which can flare up without warning.

Dress appropriately. Wear long sleeved shirt, long pants and closed toed shoes to protect your skin when first walking around the property. Boots with thick (lug) soles are preferred. Avoid tennis shoes/running shoes, whose soles can melt or be punctured.

Assess the property for safety hazards before allowing children to play or roam areas that have been burned.

Avoid damaged or fallen power poles or lines, and downed wires. Immediately report electrical damage to authorities. Electric wires may shock people or cause further fires. If possible, remain on the scene to warn others of the hazard until repair crews arrive.

Be careful around burned trees and power poles. They may have lost stability due to fire damage.

RETURNING TO YOUR HOME

Take precautions while cleaning your property. You may be exposed to potential injury and health risks from hazardous materials.

- Debris from burned buildings and homes may contain toxic substances because of the many synthetic, hazardous and other materials present. Older buildings may contain asbestos and lead. It is important to protect yourself from these materials and other fire related dangers. Debris should be wetted down to minimize health impacts from breathing dust particles.
- Use a two-strap dust particulate mask with nose clip and coveralls for the best minimal protection.
 - Wear protective glasses or goggles to protect your eyes.
 - Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects while removing debris.
 - Wear rubber gloves when working with outhouse remnants, plumbing fixtures and sewer piping. They can contain high levels of bacteria.
 - Hazardous materials such as kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paint, batteries, contaminated fuel and damaged fuel containers need to be properly handled to avoid risk. Check with local authorities for hazardous disposal assistance.
- Visually check the stability of the trees. Any tree that has been weakened by fire may be a hazard. Winds are normally responsible for toppling weakened trees. The wind patterns in your area may have changed as a result of the loss of adjacent tree cover.
 - Look for burns on the tree trunk. If the bark on the trunk has been burned off or scorched by very high temperatures completely around the circumference, the tree will not survive. Where fire has burnt deep into the trunk, the tree should be considered unstable.
 - Look for burnt roots by probing the ground with a rod around the base of the tree and several feet away from the base. If the roots have been burned, you should consider this tree very unstable, and it may be toppled by wind.

###