



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

2156 Sierra Way STE. B, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
PO Box 1489, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Phone: (805) 781-5544 Fax: (805)781-4211
Email: ehs@co.slo.ca.us

IMPORTANT HEALTH GUIDANCE: FIRE DEBRIS HAZARDS AND CLEANUP

ASH AND DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

Ash from burned structures may be more hazardous than that of burned vegetation, due to the presence of synthetic or toxic materials stored in or used in the building of the structure. Lead, lead paint, and/or asbestos may have been used in the construction of older buildings. To ensure the safety of people and to protect the environment, care must be taken to control dust and containment of debris during clean up, storage, and transportation to a landfill. The following guidance is available to assist you in this process:

- [California Environmental Protection Agency \(CalEPA\)](#) provides extensive guidance for fire response and recovery including air quality, fire debris, ash, asbestos, animal carcass removal, water protection, and government assistance resources.
- Fact Sheet: [Safe Cleanup of Ash from Burned Structures](#)

PROPANE

- Fact Sheet: [How to Manage Propane Tanks and Cylinders in Areas Affected by Wildfire](#)

ELECTRICITY

If you see downed power lines, smell natural gas, or suspect another emergency situation, leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1. Then, call PG&E's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 1-800-743-5000.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Common household hazardous wastes include computers and monitors, televisions, paints, solvents, cleaners and batteries. Special care should be exercised in handling damaged lead acid batteries found in motor vehicle, ATVs and carts, as batteries contain a powerful acid that can cause severe burns. Contractors working to restore property affected by wildfires have the same responsibilities for proper waste management under the law as the home and business owners.

- [Fact Sheet from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control \(DTSC\)](#) on the identification, safe handling and segregation of hazardous wastes from ash and other fire debris. ([En Español](#))
- [Household hazardous waste facilities in San Luis Obispo County area](#)
- [San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority \(IWMA\)](#) or call (805) 782-8530

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Wildfires and Your Health](#) provides general information about smoke, ash, and water quality and food safety.
- [San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services](#) provides up-to-date information about local emergencies and disaster preparedness.
- www.slocleanair.org
- www.calfire.ca.gov
- www.cdc.gov/features/wildfires