

## Fire Debris Disposal

The state of Oregon has committed to paying the cost of household hazardous waste removal. The Debris Management Task Force for the Oregon Wildfire Response is creating a process for homeowners to have their properties cleaned up. Using state resources can mean thousands of dollars in savings from insurance and FEMA Individual Assistance that can be used for other purposes. More information will be available soon on DEQ's wildfire web page and from your county government website.

### Debris removal and cleanup

Residents returning to fire damaged homes will likely encounter hazardous materials as well as structural damage that could pose serious threats to their health and safety. **DEQ strongly recommends waiting for FEMA assistance with hazard and debris removal at your property.**

If you choose to proceed with the cleanup yourself, this fact sheet provides some basic information about potential consequences and what to expect if you take your debris to a landfill or transfer station. Additional steps could be required.

### Potential loss of FEMA reimbursement

Cleanup by EPA will include the proper identification, removal, transport and disposal of hazardous materials on your property.

DEQ asks for patience from homeowners on behalf of FEMA. It will take time before federal agencies begin removal efforts, but there is no cost to homeowners participating in the government response. Cleaning your property up now would be at your cost.

### Insurance Claims and Rebuilding

You may also jeopardize your insurance claims and your ability to get a building permit if you complete the cleanup yourself. Contact your insurance company, city or county as soon as possible for guidance on the necessary documentation you will need.

### What to expect when doing cleanup yourself

Doing the cleanup yourself is dangerous, and if done improperly can harm you, the environment, and workers at the disposal facility where you take the waste. You will be responsible for the costs and proper characterizations, identification, removal, transport and disposal of all materials removed from your property.

If materials from a property are dumped illegally, the property owner could be responsible for paying for the cleanup of those materials and may face fines as well.

Prior to starting your cleanup, contact the landfill or transfer station you will use for disposal for their requirements, capacity, and alternative drop off locations for the following:

**Asbestos** – Property owners moving forward on their own should hire a certified asbestos abatement contractor.

**Household hazardous waste** – Property owner should dispose of HHW separately (e.g., pesticides, fertilizers, paint, pressurized gas containers, ammunition, aerosols, etc.).

**Debris and ash removal** – To keep landfill personnel safe and to comply with their DEQ permits, landfills may require the completion of a Waste Profile, documentation of proper asbestos abatement, and additional test results.

**Metal, concrete and wood debris** – Property owners should recycle metal, concrete and wood debris.

**Vehicles and large appliances** – Although landfills cannot accept vehicles and large appliances for disposal, they may accept them for recycling.

### Additional Resources and Regulations

Multiple rules from various agencies may apply to your clean up. The links below may help.

DEQ Wildfire Page

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/default.aspx>

DEQ Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractors

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/asb-contr.pdf>

ODA Large Animal Mortality Brochure

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/NaturalResources/AnimalCarcassDisposalBrochure.pdf>

Oregon DMV Wildfire Guidance

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/DMV/Pages/WildfireAlert.aspx>

### Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).



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