



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Building ♦ Environmental Health ♦ Planning
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<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/community-development>

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HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR PROPERTY RE-ENTRY AFTER FIRE

Food Safety

- Perishable food items that have not been properly stored (at or below 41 °F) for more than four hours is not considered safe and must be thrown out.
- If your home has been damaged and you find non-perishable food items we recommend that you DO NOT use them. The containers may appear to be intact but high temperatures may have caused the seams to fail, resulting in the contents being exposed to potential contamination.
- When In Doubt, Throw It Out!!

Water Safety

- If your well has been damaged it may have been exposed to potential contamination and can contaminate surrounding groundwater if not repaired properly. Fire can damage the well casing, electrical conduits and piping. DO NOT use the water for consumption which includes drinking, cooking, dishwashing, oral hygiene, hand washing, bathing and pets.
 - The well must be repaired by a qualified professional, properly disinfected as per Siskiyou County Environmental Health's (SCEH) requirements and then tested to determine the water is safe for consumption.
 - Qualified professionals include licensed well drillers, pump contractors and/or certified distribution operators. Water sampling must be conducted by a state certified laboratory (the nearest state certified laboratories are located in Redding).

Septic Systems

- Fire can damage your on-site wastewater system (or septic system) and may need to be repaired. The damage is most likely to the plumbing between the system and your home but may also include damage to the underground tank from bulldozers and other heavy equipment. The system must be repaired by a qualified professional as per SCEH's requirements.

Debris and Hazardous Waste

- Fire damage can create significant health and safety hazards that may be present at individual properties and it is recommended that debris cleanup be conducted by appropriately licensed professional contractors.
 - The county will be working with state agencies to identify hazardous debris on individual properties through onsite assessments and will be providing the community assistance with both hazardous waste and debris removal.

Additional Resources

- For more information, contact Siskiyou County Environmental Health at (530) 841-2100 or at <http://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/page/environmental-health-division>