



HAZARD ADVISORY



NOTICE:

The County of San Mateo Health Officer has issued a local health emergency due to hazardous waste and materials created by the fires and advises no habitation of destroyed property until property is declared clear of hazardous waste and structural ash and debris by County of San Mateo Environmental Health.

**YOU ARE ENTERING A HAZARDOUS AREA
ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK**

In the burn area, you will encounter dangerous conditions and will be exposed to toxic materials that may include, but are not limited to:

- Embers/hot ash
- Hazardous materials, including ash, asbestos, heavy metals, oils, fire retardants, pesticides and other hazardous materials
- Puncture hazards, including broken pipes, exposed nails, broken glass, damaged structural elements
- Potential explosive hazards including propane tanks, ammunition, and solvents
- Slippery surfaces
- Toxic airborne particles
- Uneven ground
- Unstable structures
- Fire-damaged trees that may fall over or drop debris

Wear protective gear and minimize time of exposure

DEBRIS AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

Fire damage can create significant health and safety hazards that may be present at individual properties. It is recommended that structure ash is not disturbed due to potential exposure to toxic materials. If you choose to visit your property, please consider the following:

- Wear sturdy shoes (steel toes and shanks are recommended) and clothing.
- Hazardous chemicals and conditions may be present.
- Inspect propane tanks for visible damage before turning on.
- Cover all clothing when in proximity to ash. Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, and long pants to avoid skin contact, whenever possible. Goggles should be worn.
- Anything in contact with ash should be cleaned and sanitized. Sorting through/cleaning fire debris is not recommended.
- Do not use leaf blowers or do any activities that will put ash into the air.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is the only agency that certifies respirators to determine that they adequately protect people. Look for NIOSH approval on the package or label.

FOOD SAFETY

- Perishable food items that have not been properly stored (at or below 41 °F) for more than four hours are 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

At this point, water available from your tap has not been tested and should be considered non-potable until local authorities can assess and provide feedback.

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 County of San Mateo's Environmental Health's 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.

TREE DAMAGE

Many trees may be hazardous due to fire damage. Residents are asked to be cautious and aware of the danger presented by falling trees or tree limbs. These trees may be on your property or near your property.

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Please treat any and all down power lines or wires as energized and live with the potential to cause serious injury, up to and including death.



Inspection Placards for Structures in Disaster Areas

Building Inspectors continue to inspect structures that are in evacuation zones. Upon returning to your property you may see one of three different types of placards posted by the San Mateo County Building Department – a Green Placard, a Yellow Placard or a Red Placard. Be sure to read all notes on the placard.

Do not remove, alter or cover placards until authorized by the County of San Mateo Building Division.

INSPECTED
LAWFUL OCCUPANCY PERMITTED

This structure has been inspected (as indicated below) and no apparent structural hazard has been found.

Date: _____
Time: _____

Inspected Exterior Only
 Inspected Exterior and Interior

Report any unsafe condition to local authorities; reinspection may be required.

Inspector Comments: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: _____ (Jurisdiction)

Inspector ID / Agency: _____

Facility Name and Address: _____

Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority

Green: The green tag means the structure has been inspected, no apparent structural hazard has been found, and lawful occupancy is permitted. Structures may be damaged, yet the safety of the structure was not significantly changed by the disaster.

RESTRICTED USE

Caution: This structure has been inspected and found to be damaged as described below.

Date: _____
Time: _____

(Caution: Aftershocks since inspection may increase damage and risk.)

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: _____ (Jurisdiction)

Inspector ID / Agency: _____

Facility name and address: _____

Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority

Yellow: The yellow tag means the structure has been inspected and damage has been found. Entry, occupancy or use is restricted or limited as described in further detail on the tag; please read it carefully.

UNSAFE
DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY
(THIS PLACARD IS NOT A DEMOLITION ORDER)

This structure has been inspected. Found to be severely damaged and is unsafe to occupy, as described below.

Date: _____
Time: _____

This facility was inspected under emergency conditions for: _____ (Jurisdiction)

Inspector ID / Agency: _____

Facility Name and Address: _____

Do not enter, except as specifically authorized in writing by jurisdiction. Entry may result in death or injury.

Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard until Authorized by Governing Authority

Red: The red tag means the structure has been inspected, serious damage has been found and the structure is unsafe to enter or occupy.

Please Note:

Although a structure may be tagged "Inspected" or "Restricted Use", specific areas in and around the building could be further identified as unsafe.

If you believe your home or business has been damaged and has no tag posted, please contact the County Building Division at 650-599-7311 or buildingcounter@smcgov.org with "Fire Recovery" in the subject line.