



SAFETY MESSAGE

REPOPULATION

Los Angeles Wildfires
January 2025

When evacuation orders are lifted and residents prepare to return home, it's crucial to have essential safety information. While first responders handle many risks, various post-fire hazards may occur when accessing your property. Specific dangers may arise after a fire, but first responders still manage many risks. Some hazards could result in ongoing health issues. We share this message as a helpful guide to keep you and your loved ones safe during this transition.

Body Protection / What to wear when you re-enter your property:

- Jeans, boots, **gloves**, long sleeve shirt, dust mask (e.g., N95), and eye protection
- NO SHORTS**
- NO OPEN-TOE SHOES OR FLIP FLOPS**

Caution when coming in contact with “cold” ash - it could potentially contain heated elements:

- Work in pairs and avoid working alone
- Avoid working in any ash-covered area for an extended period
- Maintain strong “situational awareness” - be aware of what's around you
- Take precautions when working near or under trees that may be fire-weakened, limbs may fall, and entire root systems can fail, causing trees to fall

Traffic safety:

- Be aware of first responder apparatus, utilities, and media vehicles
- Avoid bringing children and pets into traffic areas
- Utilize maximum caution and restraint when operating a vehicle, as pedestrians may be distracted and not paying attention to their surroundings

Caution when in and around damaged structures:

- Use appropriate shoes when walking in debris from damaged structures - there may be nails or other sharp objects
- Use caution when walking on any property space, as there may be voids that you could trip over or fall into
- Be aware of any standing structural components, including chimneys or other overhead hazards - they may be unstable and subject to collapse

Ash and other burned materials may contain chemicals hazardous to anyone - consider the following before departing your property post-fire:

- Wash your hands and boots before entering a vehicle or otherwise departing from the property
- Avoid placing your hands on your face, mouth, eyes, ears, or neck before coming into contact with others, and even pets
- Bring “wet” cleaning towelettes to wash yourself with
- Gently sweep debris followed by a wet mop; do not use a leaf blower to clean up
- Do not use your garden hose to wash around a damaged home - it may send hazardous waste into sewers and storm drains

Safe Community Project: www.safecommunityproject.org

LEARN MORE AT: www.wildfirela.org