



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Public Health Department and Air Pollution Control District provide this updated information on safety during fire clean up. The attached sheet has additional information on Asbestos and Fire Clean Up Precautions as well as a list of asbestos contractors.

Updated Recommendations for Safety During Fire Clean Up

Residents working at sites burned in the Tea Fire are advised to follow the precautions below for their personal protection:

- ◆ Wear protective glasses or goggles to protect your eyes.
- ◆ Use a two-strap dust particulate mask with a nose clip. A mask rated N95 or P100 will be more effective than simpler dust or surgical masks in blocking particles from ash. If you do not have a mask, use a damp cloth to cover your nose and mouth.
- ◆ Wear long sleeved shirt and long pants to protect your skin.
- ◆ Wear leather gloves to protect hands from sharp objects.
- ◆ Wear rubber gloves when working with outhouse remnants, plumbing fixtures, sewer piping and chemicals.
- ◆ Wear boots with thick (lug) soles. Avoid tennis/running shoes, whose soles can melt or be punctured.



These precautions are not adequate for major clean up, rubble and debris removal where large quantities of ash are disturbed which may include asbestos-containing material.

- ◆ The only way to determine if asbestos is in a burned-out area is to have a certified asbestos consultant test the material. If it's suspected that there are asbestos-containing materials in the rubble, it is best to hire a certified asbestos contractor for cleanup.
- ◆ If it's suspected that there are asbestos-containing materials in the rubble and people choose not to hire a contractor for cleanup, the N95 respirator does not provide sufficient protection for major debris and rubble removal. People are advised to wear the P100 HEPA respirator – look for the words “HEPA” with magenta/purple colored filters.
- ◆ The P-100 HEPA respirators are available at most paint stores, building material stores, hardware stores and on-line. Note: only healthy individuals should even consider using a respirator as airflow into the lungs is significantly reduced.



People with heart or lung problems and children are advised not to take part in rubble removal.

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