



MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

P.O. BOX 3329, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546 • PHONE (760) 924-1830 • FAX (760) 924-1831

REVISED EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE MONO COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER RESCINDING TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON RE-ENTRY TO AFFECTED AREAS; AND PROHIBITING ENDANGERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE UNSAFE REMOVAL, TRANSPORT, AND DISPOSAL OF FIRE DEBRIS

WHEREAS, the Mono County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local state of emergency on November 17, 2020, and the Governor issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency on November 19, 2020, due to conditions of extreme peril caused by the Mountain View Fire, which destroyed 96 homes and damaged various other structures, including Mono County's solid waste transfer station, in the Walker area of Mono County; and

WHEREAS the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the environment exists in the aftermath of a major wildfire disaster. Debris and ash from residential structure fires contain hazardous substances and the health effects of hazardous substances releases after a wildfire are well-documented; and

WHEREAS, the combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation result in dangerous ash that may contain asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazardous materials. Wells may be contaminated and require chlorination following a period of power outages. Household hazardous waste such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire, also producing hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects, and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts. Uncontrolled hazardous materials and debris pose significant threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies. Improper handling can expose workers to toxic materials, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community, and

WHEREAS, areas affected by the fire were evacuated by Incident Command, and reentry by residents and the public was restricted by order of the Health Officer dated November 19, 2020,

until such time as hazardous materials inspection and removal could be conducted; and

WHEREAS, such inspection and removal is ongoing and a determination has been made by Incident Command and CalOES that residents may re-enter areas affected by the fire, provided that they follow the provisions of this Order. Restrictions on debris removal must remain in effect to ensure the ultimate safe clean-up of fire-damaged structures and equipment; and

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 101040 authorizes the Health Officer to issue orders to protect public health and safety in the context of a local emergency, including this Order lifting the temporary entry restrictions and maintaining restrictions on debris removal; and

WHEREAS, the Mono County Health Officer continues to find that the Mountain View Fire has created conditions hazardous to public health and safety in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste/materials and structural debris, which poses a substantial threat to human health and the environment unless its removal and disposal is performed in accordance with developed standards for fire remediation.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mono County Health Officer **DECLARES** and **ORDERS** as follows:

1. A local health emergency continues to exist in Mono County due to debris from the Mountain View Fire being or containing hazardous materials which are public health hazards and threats to the public health and safety.
2. Materials posing an immediate and imminent threat, such as unexploded ammunition and household hazardous wastes are present in the debris. The process of removal by trained professionals working through Mono County and the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is in progress. County and State officials have assessed the evacuation area and determined that while these hazards do exist, contingent on following the other provisions of this order, the restriction on entry issued on November 19, 2020 may be, and is hereby rescinded.
3. Notwithstanding the above, no cleanup activities of burned structures or other construction activities shall commence without the prior written authorization of the County of Mono's Building and Environmental Health Divisions and/or representatives from CalOES responsible for incident response, and then, only in compliance with adopted cleanup standards and construction safety guidelines.
4. Pending the enactment of additional requirements to address the Mountain View Fire disaster clean up, property owners choosing not to participate in a State Fire Debris Clearance Program, if one is established in Mono County, must register with and obtain the permission of the Mono County Public Health Department – Environmental Health Division, before beginning the removal of fire debris and conduct their private debris removal, transport, and disposal in a manner that does not endanger the community.
5. No one shall temporarily occupy or camp on private property unless and until standards for such temporary occupancy are approved by the Mono County Building and Environmental Health Divisions, (and the Board of Supervisors if required under County or State law).

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 101080, that the local health emergency created and presented by the Mountain View Fire shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the Mono County Board of Supervisors and shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at least every 14 days until the local health emergency is terminated.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Date: November 22, 2020

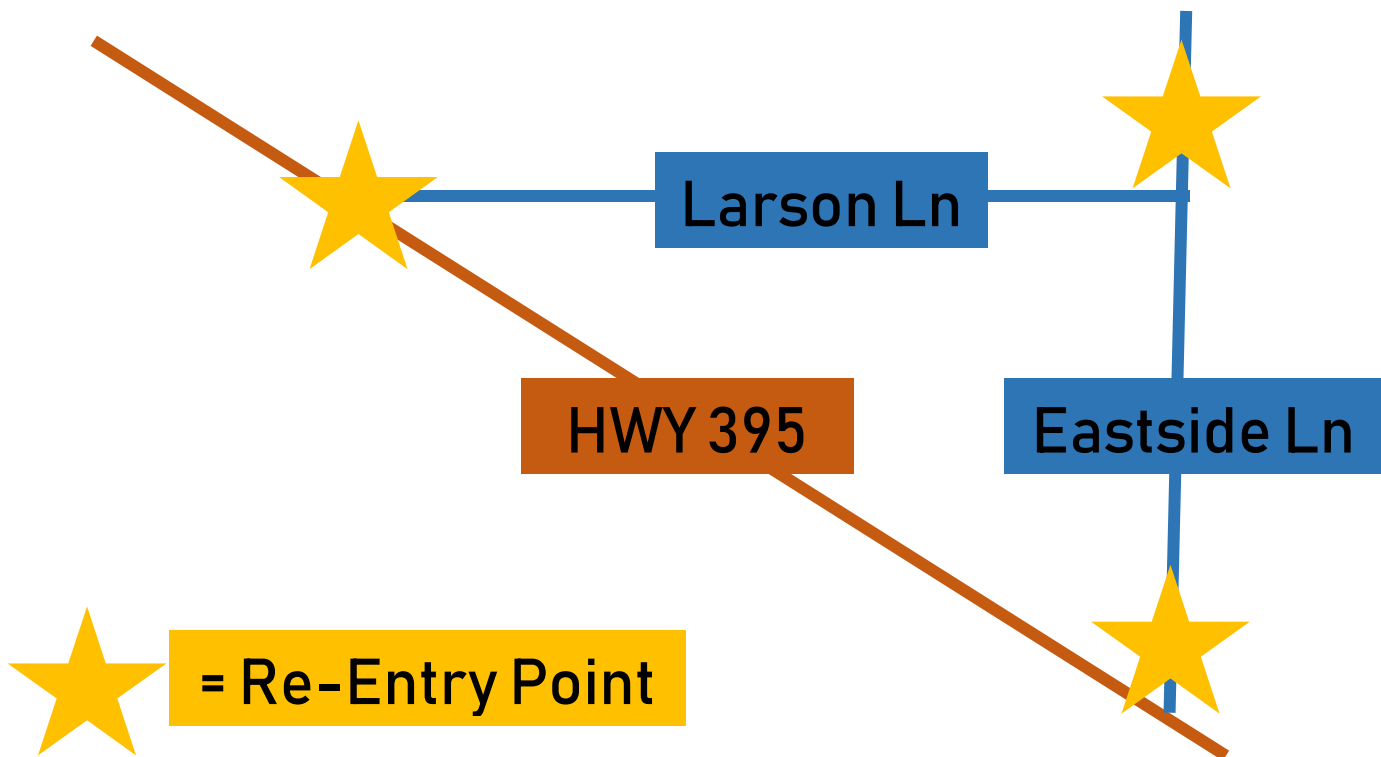
Thomas Boo, MD

Dr. Tom Boo
Mono County Public Health Officer



Mountain View Fire Re-Entry

Once the evacuation order is lifted, community re-entry points will be established to provide recovery assistance information and ensure returning residents are aware of remaining hazards, including hazardous debris. Please visit a re-entry point prior to returning to your property.



Hours of Operations

8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Beginning Sunday, November 22nd



Mountain View Fire



Mountain View Fire Update: Mono County Public Health Department Advisory

Please find the following Advisory Notice from the Mono County Health Department regarding the potential hazards in the burnt debris and ashes of those homes destroyed in the fires. We are passing this information along on behalf of the Health Department. Thank you! – Sarah M. Roberts, Public Information Officer

Advisory Notice

Debris and Ash from Residential Fire may be Hazardous

Ash and debris from burned buildings and homes can contain toxic substances due to the presence of synthetic and hazardous materials. Older buildings often contain asbestos and lead.

Household hazardous waste such as gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, and other chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire. These materials can become concentrated in ash and soil following a fire. It is important not to expose yourself, your family, or others to any of these materials. Exposures can occur by sifting through ash and debris, causing ash to become airborne and inhaled or ingested.

Mono County is working to secure additional resources and funding from State agencies that will ensure proper handling and disposal of debris and ash from the fire. In the meantime, property owners are strongly recommended to not begin cleanup activities in order to protect their health and the health of their neighbors.

Because ash and debris generated in the fire may be considered hazardous waste, local landfills and transfer stations are currently not permitted to accept this waste. This restriction is in place to protect the health of anyone who may come into contact with the waste, including solid waste facility employees, solid waste haulers, and the public.

Mono County will post more information as it becomes available on the following website:

<https://on.mono.ca.gov/mountainviewfire>

Also, for information on proper disposal at local waste sites of the burnt home debris, please see the documents at the bottom of this notice. Thank you!

Dangerous Debris

Potential Health Risks Associated with Residential Wildfire Debris

After a devastating fire, homeowners are often eager to return to their homes to see what can be recovered. While it is best to contact your local city or county for guidance about entering your property, homeowners should be aware of the immediate and long-term health risks associated with exposure to residential wildfire ash and debris. Whenever possible, residents should avoid or minimize contact with residential wildfire debris.



What Is in Residential Wildfire Debris?

Based on past analysis of homes and structures burned by wildfires, the resulting ash and debris can contain some or all of the following:

- Tiny particles of dust, dirt, and soot that can easily become airborne and inhaled.
- Toxic amounts of heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and mercury.
- Asbestos.
- Hazardous materials such as propane tanks, air conditioners, batteries, cleaning products, pesticides, and herbicides.

Reducing Your Exposure

While sifting through residential wildfire debris may not be prohibited, for your safety and the safety of others, it is not recommended. In addition to irritating your skin, nose, and throat, substances like asbestos and cadmium have been known to cause cancer. Property owners who want to search debris for possible salvageable items should do so with caution and with proper protective gear.

- Avoid disturbing debris or kicking up ash.
- NIOSH-certified air-purifying respirator masks are highly recommended. A mask rated N-95 is more effective at blocking particles from ash.
- Wear gloves, long shirts and pants, safety eyewear, and other clothing.
- It's best to change shoes and clothing as soon as you are off-site to avoid contaminating your vehicle, your home, or other non-contaminated areas.
- Even with protective clothing and respirators, children should not be exposed to wildfire ash or debris.



<https://caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery>

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Disaster/Wildfires/>



Local Assistance Center Opening

The County of Mono is leading the effort to provide disaster recovery assistance to residents impacted by the Mountain View Fire. A Local Assistance Center (LAC) will be temporarily set up to help residents get free resources and compassionate support for their recovery process.

Examples of Services Available and Agencies:

Recovery Assistance

- **American Red Cross:** Learn about sheltering and assistance programs
- **Mono County Behavioral Health:** Receive support and talk to someone

Government Services

- **DMV:** Replace driver's license, registration, or ID card
- **Mono County Assessor's Office:** Obtain property tax relief

Cleanup and Rebuilding

- **Environmental Health:** Learn about debris removal
- **Department of Insurance:** Help understanding insurance policies

Location and Hours of Operations

WHERE: Antelope Valley Community Center
442 Mule Deer Rd, Coleville, CA 96107

WHEN: Tuesday Nov, 24 – Wednesday, Nov 25
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

INFO: mountainviewfire.monocounty.ca.gov



Mountain View Fire Relief Resources



Customer Service
1-800-782-2506



Website
libertyutilites.com



Twitter
@LibertyUtil_CA



Facebook
Liberty Utilities - Tahoe

Emergency Disaster Relief Program

Liberty has activated its Emergency Disaster Relief Program to help support customers who experience loss or disruption and/or degradation of quality electric service as a direct result of the Mountain View Fire in Mono County.

Available customer protections outlined in the Emergency Disaster Relief Program include:

- Waive deposit requirements for residents seeking to re-establish service for one year and expedite move-in and move-out service requests;
- Stop estimated energy usage for billing attributed to the time period when the home/unit was unoccupied as a result of the wildfires;
- Create payment plan options;
- Suspend disconnection for non-payment and associated fees, waiver of deposit and late fee requirements; and
- Provide support for low-income residential customers.

To learn more about Liberty's Emergency Disaster Relief Program, please visit LibertyUtilities.com or call us at 1-800-782-2506.

Claims Information

Liberty makes every effort to provide safe and reliable distribution of power to our customers. However, if you believe an electrical event such as a power surge or outage caused damage to your home, perishables (medications) and/or any electrical appliances, please file a claim with Liberty Utilities. Liberty will review and research each claim.

If you have any questions you may contact our Claims Representative, Theresa Faegre at 530-543-5214 or email theresa.faegre@libertyutilities.com.