

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Consolidated Debris Removal Program** **Related to Agricultural and Commercial Structures**

**1. What is the Consolidated Debris Removal Program?**

**A.** The Consolidated Debris Removal Program has two phases: removal of household hazardous waste and removal of other fire-related debris.

In **phase one**, county, state and federal agencies have organized teams of experts from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to inspect your property and remove any household hazardous waste that may pose a threat to human health, animals, and the environment such as batteries, asbestos siding, and paints. Phase one is automatic and includes both residential and commercial properties that have been completely destroyed by the fires.

In **phase two**, Cal OES, FEMA and local officials are coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and CalRecycle to execute contracts and conduct fire-related debris removal from your property if you have elected to participate in the program by signing a Right of Entry Form.

**2. What is included in Phase II of Debris Removal?**

**A.** Phase II will include debris and ash removal related to any structures on your residential property that are destroyed. Driveways will be retained as much as possible both for possible reuse and also to serve as a staging area for debris removal and rebuilding equipment.

**3. My house was not damaged, but my commercial agricultural barn / tasting room and/or outbuildings were destroyed. Are they eligible for debris removal?**

**A.** Commercial agricultural properties or structures are **NOT** eligible to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. However, they may be eligible if it presents an immediate threat to public health and safety or the environment. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

**4. My house was damaged or destroyed, as well as my commercial agricultural barn / tasting room and/or outbuildings. What is eligible for debris removal?**

**A.** Residential homes and public infrastructure that have been completely destroyed by the fires are eligible for the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. Commercial agricultural properties or structures are **NOT** eligible to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. However, they may be eligible if it presents an immediate threat to public health and safety or the environment. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.

**5. Are commercial structures eligible for the Consolidated Debris Removal Program?**

- A. Commercial property or structures are **NOT** eligible to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. However, they may be eligible if it presents an immediate threat to public health and safety or the environment. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
- 6. Is the debris removal program only for houses that are completely destroyed?**
- A. Residential homes that have been completely destroyed by the fires are eligible for the Consolidated Debris Removal Program. Partially damaged homes are not eligible for the program. If you are unsure if your house qualifies for the debris removal program, submit a Right-of-Entry form to your local government for assessment.
- 7. The irrigation pumps, controls and drip lines, and fencing on my agricultural property was damaged or destroyed. Will the Consolidated Debris Removal Program remove this from the property?**
- A. Commercial agricultural properties or structures are **NOT** eligible to participate in the Consolidated Debris Removal Program.
- 8. Can I use my debris removal insurance policy to remove items that are ineligible for removal under the Consolidated Debris Removal program?**
- A. If you have a specified amount for debris removal in your insurance policy (for example, 5 percent of the value of a primary structure, other structure, and personal property), you may use your insurance proceeds first to remove fire related debris that is ineligible for removal under the program (e.g., swimming pools, patios, trees, etc...). The county will only collect any money that remains in your insurance policy, if any, after you have removed ineligible fire related debris.

If you have a policy that includes the costs of debris removal in the total proceeds provided for the primary structure, other structure, or personal property, you may use these proceeds to pay for the removal of fire related debris that is ineligible for removal under the program. The county will only collect any money that remains in your insurance policy, if any, after the rebuild and removal of ineligible fire related debris. The homeowner will not owe the county any additional money for debris removal.

The property owner will be required to substantiate all expenditures.

If you have any questions regarding the Consolidated Debris Removal Program, send them to [debrisquestions@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:debrisquestions@caloes.ca.gov) or visit our website at [wildfirerecovery.org](http://wildfirerecovery.org).