

Camp Fire Recovery

Phase 1: Household Hazardous Waste Removal



Butte County, CA – January 2019

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) are leading the survey, removal and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) at properties affected by the Camp Fire in the Town of Paradise and Butte County. This HHW removal is Phase 1 of the overall response.

What is household hazardous waste (HHW)?

HHW includes everyday products like paints, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, herbicides, and pesticides, which often contain hazardous ingredients. HHW field crews will remove items suspected of containing asbestos if it is easy to identify, but the property will not be cleared of asbestos until Phase 2. Pressurized fuel cylinders can also pose a threat and will be removed. Following a fire, these products require special handling and disposal, especially if their containers are compromised.

How is HHW removed from properties?

EPA and DTSC will survey each property, then HHW field crews will remove the materials identified during the survey. Local agency officials will accompany these teams.

Some empty containers and tanks will be marked with white paint and left as debris. See Butte County's website for more information about debris removal:

buttecountyrecovers.org/phase2

Why is HHW removed?

This work will clear the way for the removal of ash and debris, allowing the rebuilding process to begin. An Executive Order issued November 14 by the Governor of California provides EPA and DTSC the authority to access properties to protect public health, animals and the environment from these threats.

Phase 1 is being conducted at no cost to property owners.

Will EPA and DTSC remove anything other than HHW?

No. EPA and DTSC will **only** remove hazardous waste. If firearms or suspected remains are found, EPA and DTSC will immediately stop work and contact the County Sheriff. No other items will be removed.



Empty containers, marked with white paint, will be picked up during Phase II.



How will I know if my property will be surveyed for HHW?

You can search for your address on the Phase 1 Status map (look for the link to “Address Lookup” near the top right of the page):

buttecountyrecovers.org/phase1status

If your property is on the map it will be surveyed. If your property is not on the map, but you have fire-damaged or destroyed buildings (even small structures), call our hotline:

415-793-8794

How will I know when the process has started and been completed?

EPA and DTSC crews are in the field and will post a sign on each property when the HHW removal (or Phase 1) is complete. Completed properties are also indicated on the Phase 1 Status map (look for the link to “Address Lookup” near the top right of the page): buttecountyrecovers.org/phase1status

My neighbors’ properties were completed for HHW but mine was not. Why not?

There are several factors that impact the schedule of the EPA and DTSC field crews. For example, they may not work in an area when other field crews are present, to decrease traffic and congestion. Weather and daylight also impact the schedule. Crews are moving between different zones. For more information on which zones the HHW field crews are working in today, visit:

buttecountyrecovers.org/phase1status

In addition, HHW field crews cannot work around dangerous trees or terrain, unstable structures, or other unsafe conditions. Those properties will be addressed during Phase 2.

For more information:

For questions regarding Phase 1 HHW removal, contact the hotline number at 415-793-8794 or visit buttecountyrecovers.org/phase1status

For additional information on the Camp Fire response and recovery, visit buttecountyrecovers.org

This property’s Household Hazardous Waste removal has been designated



Ash & other materials remain a health hazard.



Please review health advisories before entering burned areas.
For questions regarding the cleanup, contact the
Right-of-Entry Center
at 530-552-3155

EPA and DTSC field crews will post this sign at properties where Phase 1 is complete.