



2007 Firestorm Recovery

**Frequently Asked Questions about the
Household Hazardous Waste
Debris Removal Program**

When will the program start?

The program started Thursday, November 8, 2007.

How long will it take?

The goal is to survey and remove household hazardous waste from all 2,400 damaged and destroyed structures before Thanksgiving.

What is included in the household hazardous waste that will be removed?

Household hazardous waste is material from homes that poses a threat to public health or environmental safety. This waste includes chemicals that are **ignitable, toxic, corrosive and/or reactive**. Examples of household hazardous waste:

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|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pool chemicals | Car batteries | Auto fluids (antifreeze, waste oil) |
| Used oil filters | Solvents | Fertilizers/Pesticides/Herbicides |
| Propane tanks | Disinfectants | Aerosols |
| Paints | | |

Can residents be present during the cleanup?

There is no need for residents to be present during the cleanup. However, if you happen to be at your property when the team arrives, you are welcome to observe the team's work from a reasonable distance.

How will I know if my property has been cleaned up?

The teams will prominently post a sign at the property, indicating that the removal of household hazardous waste has been completed.

Is this program strictly for homes or are businesses included?

This program is only for homes.

What is the cost?

There is no cost to the homeowner.



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Will Requests of Entry (ROEs) be needed for this phase?

No, no official forms need to be completed for the Household Hazardous Waste phase of debris removal.

Is Household Hazardous Waste Removal available only in the unincorporated areas, or are cities included?

Household hazardous waste will be removed from all homes destroyed and damaged by the wildfires in San Diego County, except in the City of Poway. If you are a resident of Poway, please contact the City of Poway.

Will hazardous household waste collection include both damaged and destroyed homes?

Yes, this service is available for homeowners with fire damaged or destroyed homes.

What if home owners have already started this process?

The teams will still inspect the property to make sure the household hazardous waste has been removed before the full debris removal process begins.

How will you decide which community first receives household hazardous material removal?

The County's plan is to have multiple teams working simultaneously in different areas around the county.

Why is it important to remove household hazardous waste separately from other debris removal?

Household hazardous waste can be dangerous to public safety and the environment and should be disposed of at a permitted collection facility. These wastes are being removed separately because they need to be properly recognized and managed. Additionally, these wastes could have long term negative environmental impact and it is against the law to combine them with general landfill waste. By removing the hazardous household waste from fire debris, we can prevent contaminants from polluting our environment and protect workers and residents from harmful exposure during other debris removal efforts.

What if debris removal teams find personal items on my property that may be of value?

Hazardous household waste removal teams will not dig or sift through debris. Visible items like paint cans, car batteries, propane tanks and pesticides will be removed, mainly from the garage and kitchen areas of the damaged or destroyed structure. Debris removal specialists will not disturb any items or materials unless they pose a health or environmental risk.



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Are electronic and universal waste and appliances (white goods) included?

No, teams will not remove appliances or electronic waste such as TV and computer monitors, computer processing units or cell phones. These materials will be removed as part of the overall debris removal process, conducted by the County's contractor or your contractor.

How will I know these workers as legitimate environmental officials and not scam artists?

The specialists will have proper identification. Each team will be supported by an Environmental Health Specialist from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health. The County employee will have a County identification card. This program is being conducted at no cost to you. You will not be asked for any form of payment or billing information.

Who can I call if I still have questions?

Call the County of San Diego's Debris Removal Hotline: 1-877-308-8111 or visit www.sdcountyrecovery.com