



TRINITY COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. BOX 2490, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093

PHONE (530) 623-1365

FAX (530) 623-5312

Email; tcdot@trinitycounty.org

September 25, 2017

Name

Address

City, State Zip

RE: Helena Fire – Debris Cleanup by CalRecycle

Dear **Name**:

The recent Helena Fire has created a tremendous burden for many members of our community, and many will be dealing with its affects for a long time to come. One of the first steps to recovering from this event, and safeguarding our community, is to clean up the debris from structures, vehicles and other items that were destroyed by the fire. Much of the debris from these burned items contain heavy metals, asbestos, and other chemicals that could wash into our creeks and rivers during winter weather. The County of Trinity has coordinated with CalRecycle, which provides a special program to clean up fire debris, funded by State of California emergency funds.

The County determined, due to damage to resident structures and / or outbuildings, that your property at APN number ### is eligible for this CalRecycle program. In order to sign up for this program, you must fill out and sign the enclosed "Debris Removal Right-of Entry Permit," and return the signed form to the County of Trinity at:

Trinity County DOT
31301 State Highway 3
PO Box 2490
Weaverville, CA 96093

This Right-of-Entry form is an agreement to allow CalRecycle contractors to enter your property and dispose of the debris. This form is also your opportunity to give us specific information about your property, such as the location of water lines or septic systems that you want protected, vehicles that you do not want removed, or the location of specific items that you would like cleanup crews to search for. If you know the likely location of pesticides, paints, or other potentially hazardous materials, that information would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to draw a map of your property on the last page, or make any comments about specific items of concern.

Right-of-Entry forms must be turned in by **Friday, October 13, 2017** in order to participate in the debris removal program.

The CalRecycle debris removal program is intended to be a free resource to clean up damaged properties, but if you have home insurance, your home insurance may be required to pay some of the costs. The attached "Frequently Asked Questions" pamphlet answers some important questions about insurance, but as insurance policies vary, it is always a good idea to speak to your insurance company about this Right-of-Entry form.

CalRecycle has set up an office next to Ace Hardware in Weaverville. If you have questions about the debris removal process, or about the Right-of-Entry forms, you are welcome to come into the office and discuss your questions. Currently, we do not have a phone number for the office, but we expect to have a phone number by the time you get this letter. You may call the Trinity County Department of Transportation office at (530) 623-1365 to get the new phone number for the CalRecycle office in Weaverville. If you have any information about your property which would be helpful for the cleanup work, we would gladly receive it at the CalRecycle office or at the Trinity County DOT office.

Please be aware that if you do not take advantage of this opportunity, you will be required by the State and/or County to remove the debris in order to protect the health and welfare of the public (including your neighbors) by November 15th, 2017. Please understand that disposal on property by burying it is strictly prohibited, and would lead to significant fines, cleanup, and mitigation to resolve. It is our understanding that the Trinity County transfer sites are not equipped to take fire debris, and the debris would need to be taken to a facility with the ability to accept fire debris.

Once we receive your signed form, CalRecycle will contact you to schedule work on your property. The intent is to get all debris cleared before the winter storms make removal difficult, so you may expect to be contacted quickly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (530) 623-1365 x3414 or email me at apence@trinitycounty.org.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pence,
Sr. Engineer
Trinity County Dept. of Transportation

HELENA FIRE DEBRIS CLEANUP PROGRAM

County of Trinity and the State of California

Frequently Asked Questions

As most community members are aware, the County of Trinity and the State of California are offering a debris cleanup program for all those residences affected by the recent fires. This fact sheet specifically addresses those residences impacted by the Helena Fire.

Residents can sign up for the program by filling out a Right of Entry (ROE) form, which can be found online and at the Debris Removal Operations Center (information below). The cleanup program will not send crews to any property unless an ROE has been filled out and submitted.

This cleanup program is funded State of California emergency funds. It is a service offered to alleviate hardship during this time of need and protect the community from human and environmental health risks. The purpose of the program is to leave your property clean and safe, ready to rebuild.

Many residents have questions about how their insurance policy fits in to the debris cleanup program. Use this guide to find answers for your specific situation.

Have an insurance policy with a specific amount designated for debris cleanup:

At the end of the cleanup of all the properties, the County will provide you, the policy holder, and your insurance provider a statement detailing exactly how much your property's cleanup cost. This statement will include an itemized list, including everything from large debris removal to soil sampling. Under state law, the program is required to seek any funds designated for debris removal in an insurance policy for properties cleaned. You will also receive a detailed project completion report, explaining all of the cleanup steps taken on your property.

What if my policy-specified allocation is more than the total amount CalRecycle spent in cleaning up my property?

Your insurance agency only pays the amount CalRecycle spent on your individual property. For example, if the cleanup cost is \$12,000 and your insurance policy allocates \$15,000 for debris cleanup, you would keep the remaining \$3,000.*

What if my policy-specified allocation is less than the total amount CalRecycle spent in cleaning up my property?

Your insurance agency only pays the amount your insurance policy specifies – the cleanup program will cover the rest of the costs. For example, if the cleanup cost is \$16,000 and your insurance policy allocates \$15,000 for debris cleanup, your insurance agency would pay the \$15,000 and the cleanup program would pay \$1,000.*

**Note these numbers are for example only, they do not reflect the estimated amount a property will cost to clean up.*

Have an insurance policy that does not have a specific amount designated for debris cleanup:

You can still participate in the debris cleanup program, but you must provide a letter from your insurance company stating the fact that there is no debris cleanup-specific allocation in your insurance policy. This letter should be provided to the County. When it is verified that you do not have a specific amount in your policy designated for debris cleanup, the cleanup program will pay the entire amount for cleanup of your property. At the end of the cleanup, you will receive a detailed project completion report explaining all of the cleanup steps taken on your property.

Do not have an insurance policy:

You can still participate in the debris cleanup program. You will need to work with the County to show proof that you do not have an insurance policy. Once this is verified, the cleanup program will pay the entire amount for cleanup of your property. At the end of the cleanup, you will receive a detailed project completion report explaining all of the cleanup steps taken on your property.

How does payment work?

The County is handling all of the payment logistics for the cleanup program. When the entire cleanup is complete, you will be provided with an itemized list of all the costs from your property's cleanup. You will work with the County and your insurance company to ensure your property's cleanup costs are paid by your insurance agency. The program works with actual costs, never estimates.

Can I get an estimate of my property's cost of cleanup now?

Each property is unique, and therefore will cost a different amount to clean up. The cleanup program cannot provide an estimate of how much your individual property will cost because there are many different factors that will affect the price of cleanup. For example, a property with a large basement might cost more than a property with no basement. A property with large amounts of asbestos will require more resources to clean up than a property without asbestos. When the entire cleanup is complete, you will be provided with an itemized list of all the costs from your property's cleanup.

Helena Debris Removal Operations Center (DROC)

1400 Main Street, Weaverville

Next to Ace Hardware

Hours: Monday – Friday from 8 AM to 5PM, Saturday 8 AM to 12PM,
Sunday Closed