



Trinity County Environmental Health

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AUGUST COMPLEX INFORMATION

TRINITY COUNTY, Calif. (September 22, 2020)— As of this date, the August Complex (North Zone) has been documented to have destroyed 152 structures in the communities of Three-Forks, Hoaglin, Kettenpom, and surrounding areas in Trinity County.

Due to active fire behavior, evacuation orders (in some locations,) and present safety issues such as fire debris including fallen trees, many areas continue to be inaccessible for further evaluation. The number of damaged or destroyed structures is expected to increase, as these dangers are mitigated and further evaluation can occur. Trinity County has not faced such devastation from wildfire, since the 2017 Helena Fire was estimated to have damaged/destroyed 117 structures.

At this time, Trinity County Environmental Health is urging the public, that as evacuation orders lift, to use extreme caution. Any handling of fire debris is highly discouraged, as handling/sifting of fire debris and ash, can be extremely hazardous to human health and the environment (see this link from California Environmental Protection Agency for more information:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/public-information/report/fireash.pdf>).

Please note that this debris cannot be taken to local solid waste facilities, and has to be removed properly with demolition permits and hazardous waste evaluations. Trinity County has requested assistance from the state's fire debris removal process and will keep the public updated with this effort. Please call Trinity County Office of Emergency Services at 530-623-1116 for additional information or to find out if your property has been impacted by the 2020 August Complex.

