



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

CYNTHIA A. HARDING, M.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

ANGELO J. BELLOMO, MS, REHS, QEP
Deputy Director for Health Protection

3530 Wilshire Boulevard, 11th Floor, Suite 1110
Los Angeles, California 90010
TEL (213) 351-0397

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

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March 18, 2019

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPERTIES CLEANED PRIOR TO OBTAINING COUNTY PERMISSION AS REQUIRED BY THE WOOLSEY FIRE DEBRIS REMOVAL EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2018-0056U

A Declaration of a Local Health Emergency and Order was issued by the Los Angeles County Health Officer on November 12, 2018. It identified the conditions existing on properties destroyed by the fire as posing a “imminent threat to public health in the form of contaminated fire debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris resulting from the destruction...” It also prohibited the removal of fire ash and debris unless it is part of a State Fire Debris Clearance Program, or the property owner obtains permission from the County to carry out a private cleanup of the property.

If property owners cleaned the debris prior to obtaining permission from the County, the following actions must be taken to comply with the Health Officer’s Order:

1. Complete the Local Fire Debris Removal Program Application as required by the Ordinance
2. Create a work plan that provides for site testing and analysis, hazardous waste and asbestos removal, debris removal, erosion control, soil grading, and confirmation sampling.
3. Provide receipts or other documentation showing the location of proper waste disposal
4. A licensed consultant must collect soil samples at a depth of 0-3 inches in representative areas around the ash footprint, to determine the adequacy of the cleanup of structure ash and debris.

Property owners will not be allowed to build on their property until there is a certification of completion of the property cleanup and removal of all hazardous waste has been completed in accordance with applicable standards approved by the County.