

Wildfire Recovery

Step 1: Household Hazardous Waste Removal



Oregon – October 2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is leading the survey, removal, and disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) at properties affected by the Oregon wildfires. This HHW removal is Step 1 of the overall response and is available at no cost to property owners.

What is household hazardous waste (HHW)?

HHW includes everyday products like paints, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, ammunition, and radiological sources, which often contain hazardous ingredients or pose dangers to workers. In addition, HHW field crews will remove items suspected of containing asbestos if they are easy to identify and accessible. 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 cleanup crews will survey each property and then remove the materials identified as hazardous. Local agency officials will accompany these teams. Some empty containers and tanks will be marked with white paint and left as debris. See the state's wildfire cleanup website for more information about debris removal:

<http://wildfire.oregon.gov/cleanup>.

Why is HHW removed?

HHW poses a threat to public health and the environment. Additionally, this work will clear the way for Step 2 -- the removal of ash and debris - allowing the rebuilding process to begin.

Will EPA remove anything other than HHW?

No. EPA will **only** remove hazardous waste. If firearms or suspected remains are found, EPA will immediately stop work and contact the county Sheriff. No other items will be removed. EPA will be doing this removal by hand, not with heavy machinery.



EPA cleanup crews will find, collect, and dispose of hazardous and dangerous materials from burned properties. This step in the recovery process is required before ash and debris can be removed.



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

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

<https://r10data.response.epa.gov/ORfires2020/> 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: **541-225-5549**

How will I know when the Step 1 process has been completed?

EPA crews are in the field and will post a sign on each property when the HHW removal (Step 1) is complete. Completed properties are also indicated on the EPA status map through the “Address Lookup” tool on the map:

<https://r10data.response.epa.gov/ORfires2020/>

May I provide input about potential hazards to EPA crews before they arrive at my property?

Yes. Please call the EPA hotline at **541-225-5549** if you have any special comments or concerns about your property.

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

There are several factors that impact the schedule of the EPA 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 the EPA map to see the daily work zones: <https://r10data.response.epa.gov/ORfires2020/>

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

For more information:

For questions regarding Step 1 HHW removal, contact the hotline number at **541-225-5549** or visit <https://r10data.response.epa.gov/ORfires2020/>

For additional information on the Oregon fires response and recovery, visit <https://wildfire.oregon.gov/cleanup>



This property’s Household Hazardous Waste removal has been designated

✓ COMPLETE

Ash and other materials remain a health hazard.

Please review health advisories before entering burned areas.

For more information about the cleanup go to:

- ❖ EPA: <https://r10data.response.epa.gov/ORfires2020/>
- ❖ Clackamas County: <https://www.clackamas.us/wildfires/clear-debris>
- ❖ Douglas County: https://www.co.douglas.or.us/media_room/fireinfo.asp
- ❖ Jackson County: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/emergency/News/Wildfires-Smoke>
- ❖ Klamath County: <http://em.klamathcounty.org/300/Emergency-Management---Sheriffs-Office>
- ❖ Lane County: <https://www.lanecounty.org>
- ❖ Lincoln County: <https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/emergencymanagement/page/north-lincoln-rebuilds>
- ❖ Linn County: <https://www.co.linn.or.us>
- ❖ Marion County: <https://www.co.marion.or.us/fire>
- ❖ State of Oregon: wildfire.oregon.gov

EPA field crews will post this sign at properties where Step 1 is complete.