



Lincoln County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Echo Mountain Fire Complex – Resource Update

Revised: 09/24/20 4:00pm

This is a notice from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office regarding recovery and resource updates for those affected by the Echo Mountain Fire complex and straight-line wind event this month. This includes information about FEMA, the American Red Cross, Call Center and safely managing ash & debris.

FEMA is in Lincoln County to Assist You

FEMA representatives will remain in Lincoln County to assist with applying for financial assistance for those affected by the wildfire and straight-line wind event. They have been at the Multi-agency Resource Center the last three days and will be moving locations tomorrow, Friday, September 24, 2020.

Lincoln City Community Center

2150 NE Oar Place

8am – 6pm - Friday, Sept. 25 - Sunday, Sept. 27.

FEMA representatives can help you apply for assistance or appeal denials. They are also making calls in our area and it is not spam. Oregon Emergency Management and FEMA want people impacted by the Oregon Wildfires to **register with FEMA as quickly as possible!**

- Some FEMA assistance programs are only available for a short time frame for those who qualify. For example: Critical Needs Assistance (CNA) has been approved. This means eligible households impacted by wildfires in Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Marion counties may be awarded a one-time fixed amount of \$500.00 per household. Immediate or critical needs are - life-saving and life-sustaining items including, but not limited to: water, food, first aid, prescriptions, infant formula, diapers, consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, personal hygiene items, and fuel for transportation.
- If you receive a denial from FEMA, it may just mean more information is needed. Denial letters include information about how to appeal. ALWAYS go through the appeal process!
- **If you are a wildfire survivor who needs to replace durable medical equipment** provided by programs like Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP, go back to where you obtained the equipment originally (your doctor for example). Depending on how your equipment was funded, the normal time frame restrictions for equipment replacement may have been waived.

Individual Assistance – FEMA

Website: [DisasterAssistance.gov/ela](https://www.disasterassistance.gov/ela)

Phone: 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA) or

TTY 1-800-462-7585 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. PDT, seven days a week.

Low-interest disaster loans – SBA

Website: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance

Phone: 1-800-659-2955 or TTY 800-887-8339

American Red Cross

If you were evacuated from an Oregon wildfire or had wind damage and you need shelter, contact the American Red Cross.

Phone: 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767, ext. 4)

Website: www.redcross.org

In Person: Lincoln City Community Center, 2150 NE Oar Place, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Lincoln County Emergency Call Center

The Call Center is reducing its hours starting tomorrow, Friday, September 25th. The hours are as follows:

- Friday -8am – 5pm
- Saturday and Sunday – closed
- Monday, September 28 – Wednesday September 30 – 9am – 4pm

Starting Thursday, October 1, the call center will go back to normal COVID operation. There will be a recorded message with options to speak to various departments related to disaster recovery as well. The call center menu will be

- 541-265-0621
 - #1 COVID Response
 - #2 Planning Department
 - #3 Solid Waste
 - #4 Environmental Health
 - #5 Behavioral Health
 - #6 Lincoln Alerts/Emergency Management/Donations
 - #7 Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
 - #8 all other inquiries
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- **Housing and Community Services:** <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/index.aspx>
 - **Renters Rights** <https://www.oregonrentersrights.org/>

Safely Managing Ash & Debris

Losing a home to fire can be extremely traumatic, both physically and emotionally. There is sometimes physical injury and loss of human life in some fires, or the loss of pets. Then there is the loss of property, and items of financial or sentimental value.

With all these things to deal with, the last thing many people think about after a crisis is the hazardous nature of ash and fire debris on their property. But there are some basic things you should understand about ash to fully protect yourself, your family and in some cases, your neighbors.

Use caution around debris

- **Be aware of all electrical hazards** – including those from downed power lines or other electrical sources - as well as hazards from unstable walking surfaces and sharp objects buried in the ash. Use extreme caution at all times when near the debris.
- **Wear sturdy footwear, eye goggles, a properly fitted N95 or KN95 respirator and heavy-duty work gloves.** If possible, wear disposable coveralls and dispose of them after use. If you do not wear disposable coveralls, make sure to have a clean set of clothes to change into after working or rummaging in debris and ashes.
- **Cloth face coverings, paper masks or bandanas are not effective** at filtering out fine airborne ash, dust or asbestos fibers. N95 and KN95 respirators, if properly fit tested and worn, can offer some protection from airborne particles. See more about masks in next section.
- **Don't use a leaf blower to clean up ash.** It will create more airborne particles. Ash must be adequately wetted to control dust that can become airborne. Water may not always be available, but it is one of the most important means to control ash and asbestos. When cleaning with water, please ensure water containing ash is not washed into the stormwater system or into surface waters. Water containing ash can cause water quality issues.
- **Children should not be involved in cleanup activities.** Do not let children near the debris or in an area where they might breathe airborne particles left from the fire.
- **Wash any recovered personal items** with water or wipe with a damp cloth to remove potentially toxic dust ensuring water containing ash is not washed into the stormwater system or into surface waters. Water containing ash can cause water quality issues.
- **Before cleaning up ash and other debris, get the material tested to determine if it contains asbestos.** Many homes and buildings have materials with asbestos. Asbestos use has decreased significantly over the years, but asbestos still exists in some building materials produced today. If it contains asbestos, hire a licensed asbestos abatement contractor.
- **Clean recyclable materials such as metals and concrete with water prior to transport**, if possible. This is to reduce the spread of asbestos or other contaminants in the ash. When cleaning with water, please ensure water containing ash is not washed into the stormwater system or into surface waters. Water containing ash can cause water quality issues.
- **Household chemicals may be dangerous to handle**, so take care before handling paints, bleaches, oils or other household hazardous wastes that may be partially burned.
- **Call your local garbage hauler or transfer station** with questions about waste disposal.

Masks and Respirators

Cloth face coverings, paper masks or bandanas are not very effective at filtering out fine airborne ash, dust or asbestos fibers. This is because they typically do not have a tight fit around the face. However, they are good for minimizing the release of droplets that help spread COVID-19.

N95 respirators, if properly fit tested and worn, can offer some protection from airborne particles. Otherwise they may create a false sense of security. N95 respirators, are currently in short supply and being reserved for health care workers due to COVID-19.

KN95s are similar to N95s. Some are NIOSH approved, but do not meet health care standards. Like N95s, KN95s need to fit well enough to form a seal and be properly worn. Some individuals may have more difficulty getting them to fit properly and seal as well as an N95. Learn how to get a proper fit in this short instructional [N95 respirator video from Oregon OSHA](#). If you use a KN95 respirator, then it needs to be on the FDA-approved list. To check the list, visit [FDA's Personal Protective Equipment EUAs page](#) and scroll to "Appendix A: Authorized Imported, Non-NIOSH Approved Respirators Manufactured in China."

If N95 and KN95 respirators are not available, and you must go to a place with ash and debris, use a face covering that covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of the face. Face coverings made of two to three layers are better than those made of one. With any respirator or face covering, make sure that you can breathe comfortably and take breaks away from debris and ash as needed.

Before you rebuild or begin demolition

State rules govern various aspects of managing and removing asbestos, and these rules are in place to protect public health. Refer to guidance on [DEQ's asbestos webpage](#) or contact DEQ prior to starting any demolition activities.

Generally, ash and debris can be presumed to contain asbestos and must be abated properly. Otherwise, Oregon requires that an [accredited asbestos inspector](#) perform an [asbestos survey](#) of the materials to determine next steps. Depending on the results, DEQ can help you determine the appropriate next steps. A survey isn't required for single family homes constructed after Jan. 1, 2004.

Any fire damaged asbestos containing material is considered friable and must be removed by a [DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor](#).

DEQ can help

Contact DEQ for help if you:

- Have concerns about asbestos on your property, or if you find evidence of asbestos fibers and want to know more about how to ensure safe disposal.
- Need advice on how to properly dispose of household hazardous wastes such as bleaches, cleaners, paints or oils.
- Need assistance with the inspection or replacement of septic systems.

Find more information about managing:

- [Asbestos](#)

- [Household hazardous waste](#)
- [Septic systems](#)

Fire Damage and Recovery information is available on our [Echo Mtn Fire Complex website](#).

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
541-265-0621
www.co.lincoln.or.us/echomountainfire