

SAFETY BULLETIN

August 2018



SHASTA-TRINITY SCHOOLS
INSURANCE GROUP

WILDFIRE CLEANUP

DON'T BECOME A CASUALTY AFTER THE FIRE IS OUT

Smoke, debris, and toxic ash can be just as dangerous as a fire, and the effects can sneak up on you. Before you start cleaning up the mess, think about the potential hazards and do what you can to work safely.

SMOKE AND ASH

- Stay inside when the smoke is the worst.
- Limit or avoid any activity that will result in increased breathing: outdoor exercise, sports, strenuous work, etc.
- NIOSH N95 or P100 Particulate Masks are recommended for wear when cleaning up debris and ash, and at all times when hazardous air conditions exist. Don't use cheap dust masks.
- Put your car, work, and home AC units on "recirculate" instead of drawing outside air in.
- The use of indoor HEPA filters can help. Ensure all HVAC HEPA filters are checked and changed often (read manufacturers recommendations). During heavy smoke filters may only last a few days.
- Gently sweep large debris and use water on large areas of ash. **DO NOT USE A LEAFBLOWER.**
- For cleaning inside surfaces, use a damp rag, mop, or a vacuum with a HEPA filter.

BURNT DEBRIS

- Ensure the debris you are moving does not have live embers.
- Do not attempt to move toxic waste, debris, burnt chemical containers, or anything that may contain asbestos. Contact the County EOC for assistance with the removal of toxins. Mark the area and keep others out.
- Be careful to avoid sharp nails, glass, and other hazardous debris. Wear puncture resistant boots, and thick work gloves as well as eye protection.
- Never attempt to move downed power lines or poles. Call PG&E for assistance.
- Unless you are a professional, do not attempt to cut trees down and also be prepared for weakened trees to fall unexpectedly.
- When moving bulky debris, lift with your legs. Get help when needed.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER RESOURCES

<http://www.stsigpa.com/>

For any questions regarding this Safety Bulletin, or requests for free onsite safety classes, please contact Kurt Walling, the Loss Prevention Manager for STSIG at kwalling@stsig.org, or 530-221-6444.

And remember: *Stay Alert, Stay Alive!*