



# STAY SAFE AFTER A WILDFIRE

## RETURN HOME ONLY WHEN AUTHORITIES SAY IT IS SAFE

### If your home was damaged during the fire:



Wait until it is daytime to go back into your home. This will allow you to see possible dangers more clearly, especially if the electricity is out.



Check carefully on and around your home for embers, including roofs and gutters; overhangs, decks and crawl spaces; debris or wood piles; and on lawns, in gardens and on trees.



Beware of falling trees and damaged structures. Watch for hidden embers in trees and structures and for "hot spots" on the ground.



Use a flashlight to look around your home. If you think there might be damage to your electric or gas system, do NOT light matches or turn on electrical switches. This can cause an explosion. If you smell or suspect a gas leak, stay out. From a safe distance, call 9-1-1 or your utility.



If there are electrical wires on the ground or hanging low, do NOT touch them. Report it to your utility company as quickly as you can. If downed lines may be life-threatening, call 9-1-1.



If you have insurance, try to contact your insurance company and see what repairs they will pay for. Take photos or video of any damage to your home before you start making repairs and cleaning yourself, or make lists and notes.

## KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE

- Wildfire ash can be dangerous to you and your family's health, especially to the young and the old and to anyone with certain health conditions like asthma.
- Watch out where kids play and keep them away from ash and debris. Do not let them help with the cleanup and keep dusty fingers out of their mouths. Wash off any toys before allowing children to play with them.
- Everyone should wash hands thoroughly after working in the debris and again before eating. Use sanitizer if soap and safe or bottled water is not available.

## KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

- Pets can also get sick from ash. Try to keep them indoors or create safe areas where they can be outside
- If your pets may have been exposed to ash, clean or bathe them – and clean your own hands after, too.

## BEGIN RECOVERY

- You can find recovery resources at [listoscalifornia.org/recovery](https://listoscalifornia.org/recovery).
- Check to see if there's aid available to survivors through local, state or federal programs.
- After a wildfire, your home may be affected by smoke, soot and ash, chemicals, structural damage, and water damage.
- If you are doing your own clean up, wear proper safety equipment and avoid activities that can blow harmful particles back into the air.
- If you have to hire someone to help repair your home, ensure they have a license from the Contractors State License Board. Look it up at [cslb.ca.gov](https://cslb.ca.gov).