



Tips for Those Who Have Evacuated or Been Affected by Fire, Smoke or Prolonged Power Outages

To be notified when it's safe to return to your home, sign up for Public Alerts on our wildfire webpage at www.clackamas.us/wildfires. When you are allowed to return, please keep the following tips in mind:

Drive with caution

Driveways and rural roads could be blocked by rocks, fallen tree limbs or other debris. There may also be damage to roads and utility poles. Expect additional vehicles and pedestrians on the roads during the recovery efforts.

Look for hot spots

Check for hot embers in rain gutters, piles of wood, compost, on the roof, under overhangs and on all parts of your property, including outbuildings.

Check your home

As you return home, be aware of your surroundings. Be alert for downed powerlines or propane and gas tanks that may have been exposed to heat or fire.

Once inside your home, check for fire damage, including in attics and crawlspaces.

If your property has structural fire damage, it may be hazardous and we encourage you to wait to clean until a qualified contractor can do it. When cleaning, wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, goggles, long pants, work gloves, N95 or KN95 face coverings and sturdy thick-soled shoes. These will protect you from broken glass, exposed nails and other objects.

Do not touch or attempt to remove any debris without consulting a certified asbestos abatement company. It may contain contaminants that are not disposable in a standard landfill.

Call your insurance company to check your policy. Let your company know if you have evacuated. Coverage is typically available for fire, smoke and ash damage to your home and personal property. Document property damage with photographs. Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for assistance.

To keep safe when returning home and cleaning debris, visit the following resources from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality:

- www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/After-the-Fire-safety.aspx
- www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/Home-that-Survived-a-Wildfire.aspx

Food Safety

If your power goes out for an extended time, the food in your refrigerator or freezer can spoil, making it unsafe to eat. The following tips will help keep you safe.

- Never taste food to determine its safety.
- You can't rely on appearance or odor to determine whether food is safe.
- Dispose of any food that shows signs of damage from heat or fire, including ash or smoke. Any food displaying an off-odor or signs of spoilage should be thrown out. If food such as grains or flour is caked, doesn't flow freely, or is contaminated with ash, water, or chemicals, discard.
- Place spoiled food in heavy trash bags and seal. Do not let bags come in contact with children or pets.
- Excessive heat produced by fires can influence the safety of stored food. Toxic fumes from burning materials can contaminate food. Throw away food stored in permeable or semi-permeable packaging such as cardboard or plastic wrap.
- It is recommended that any home-canned food and food in screw-top jars that has been exposed to the extreme heat of fire be discarded. If the heat of the fire doesn't cause the jar to break, high temperatures can cause jar lids to come unsealed, allowing bacteria to get into the food. The jar lid may "seal" again when the temperature drops, causing an unsafe jar to appear safe. The jars may be reused but the food inside should be thrown away.
- If your power was out, learn what to do with refrigerated or frozen foods using tips from the Oregon Health Authority:
 - Food Safety During a Power Outage
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9dUhhwxlq8>
 - Keeping Food Safe During an Emergency
<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served//le8631.pdf>

Drinking Water Safety

Public drinking water systems provide notification to their customers when drinking water needs to be boiled or it is unsafe to drink. Check with your water provider if you are unsure.

- Oregon Water Resources Department's Maintaining Your Well After a Wildfire
www.oregon.gov/owrd/WRDPublications1/Drought_and_Wells_Fire_Related_Final.pdf

Safe+Strong

We realize stress, worry and fear is high right now. Help is available for people who need assistance or may be struggling with mental health issues.

www.clackamas.us/behavioralhealth/clackamas-safestrong