Household Hazardous Waste Removal Activities for Properties Affected by the Woolsey-Hill Fires

A Public Health Emergency for Ventura County was declared November 9, 2018, to protect public health and the environment from hazardous waste, fire debris and ash remaining on properties affected by the wildfires.

To expedite recovery activities and ensure safe disposal of hazardous waste, teams from the County and EPA will inspect affected properties and remove any accessible and identifiable household hazardous waste (HHW) that may pose a threat to human health and the environment such as batteries, paints, fuels, oils, paint thinner, compressed gas cylinders, aerosol cans, pesticides, cleaning products and identifiable asbestos.

- If the hazardous material contents were consumed in the fire, the can or container was marked with a white “X” and will be removed during the general debris removal operation.
- If large, identifiable pieces of asbestos could not be removed, they were marked with pink paint. If asbestos is spread throughout the debris pile, it was also identified with pink paint and will be part of the Phase 2. Yellow “Caution” tape will be placed around the area where it’s located.

Once your property is cleared during Phase 1, a yellow clearance notice like this will be posted on the property. **This clearance is required before debris removal (Phase 2) can start or demolition and building permits can be issued.** If your yellow notice is marked as “NA” for the screening and/or removal, it could mean one or more of the following:

- The property was not safe for workers to enter, so the assessment was not done and the HHW must be removed during the next phase.
- The property was on the damage list but there was minimal or not visible damage to structures

Although your property has been screened for hazardous waste, the remaining fire debris and ash may contain hazardous substances like heavy metals and asbestos fibers.

You can register to receive recovery notifications and learn about Phase 2 at [http://venturacountyrecovers.org/](http://venturacountyrecovers.org/)