GuziWest
INSPECTION & CONSULTING

Wildfire Debris Removal Flowchart

Detailed text version

Phase I
DTSC teams will inspect your property and remove any hazardous waste, hazard trees, etc. This happens and is required no matter what homeowners elect to do later.

Phase II
Homeowners now have 2 options - Option 1 is the government sponsored program where state and federal officials complete all testing, debris removal, soil excavation, etc. Option 2 is where homeowers choose to retain private contractors to perform all testing, debris removal, etc. (regardless of which option you choose, the cleanup process and requirements are the same).

Which option is right for you?

Phase II, Option 1 (Gov. Program)
Phase II is where the actual fire debris and 'contaminated' soil will be removed and disposed of from your property. Env. Testing will also be conducted during this phase. The guide here is very helpful, but if you don't have fire insurance then you should almost assuredly participate in the Gov. Option. In our experience, the government program has been handled relatively well with some minor exceptions (With projects at this scale, inevitably some property owners will be unhappy). During the Carr Fire, we researched concerns over opting-in and wrote an article that can be found here.

Phase II, Option 2 (Private Program)
Phase II is where the actual fire debris and 'contaminated' soil will be removed and disposed of from your property. Env. Testing will also be conducted during this phase. You will want to obtain bids from contractor/ environmental professional teams who can complete the entire scope of work required under Phase II. Make 100% sure you have sufficient insurance coverage to pay these costs. This option typically occurs faster and you maintain control over your property (which are the main reasons we see homeowners choose this option). The guide found here is helpful for making a decision.

Completion Certification - regardless of which option you choose above the end result is you have a site cleaned of debris, soil, etc. and your lot will be ready for re-building. Your local building department will work closely with your Env. Health department to ensure your property has been cleared for re-building.

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