

## **REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF BURNED DEBRIS FROM HIGH PARK FIRE**

It is strongly advised you not clean up your property until after you have talked to your insurance agent and have documented what was lost.

**Removal of Burned Debris:** The State of Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment has certain asbestos removal requirements. Attached are directions from the Larimer County Department of Health & Environment outlining steps that must be taken to remove debris from partially and totally destroyed structures involved in the High Park fire. For more information, call the County Department of Health & Environment at (970) 498-6775.

**Deposit of Burned Debris at the Landfill:** The Colorado Solid Waste and Materials Management Division has certain requirements concerning disposal of fire debris. Larimer County Landfill staff members are aware of these requirements. See attached handout for more information.

**Is a County demolition permit required for a structure that was damaged or destroyed by the High Park fire?** A County demolition permit may be required depending on the extent of the damage.

- For structures entirely destroyed by the fire: No County demolition permit is necessary for clean-up of structures entirely destroyed by fire. However, property owners or their agents are encouraged to call the Larimer County Building Department at (970) 498-7670 in order to register lost structures with the County.
- For structures partially damaged by the fire: If a building is still standing after the fire and is later determined to be a total loss slated for demolition, a demolition permit is required to ensure all utilities are capped off, all debris from the demolition is removed and to delete the building from County records. A permit fee will not be charged for demolition of structures damaged in the High Park fire.

**Is a State demolition permit required for a structure that was damaged or destroyed by the High Park fire?** A State-issued demolition permit is not required to remove ash and debris from buildings that have been partially or completely destroyed if it is not known if asbestos-containing material or other hazardous material is present. However, the ash and debris must be thoroughly wetted prior to handling to minimize dust. See attached handout for more information.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FIRE DAMAGE REPAIRS OR STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT**

**Q: Do I need to get a building permit for *repair* work following a fire on my property?**

A: Possibly. When a structure has been damaged by fire, you need a building permit for repair work involving, in part, structural components, electrical and plumbing installations. Call the Building Department to confirm whether or not a permit is required: (970) 498-7700.

**Q: Do I need an inspection for repair work?**

A: If the structure is to be repaired, an inspection is required before any building repair permit can be issued. The inspection is to be conducted by a Colorado Registered Engineer and will determine the damage and what repairs are needed to bring the building into conformity with building codes. The Engineer's letter of inspection and plans or repair specifications must be submitted along with your application for a building permit.

**Q: Will I need building plans to get a damage repair building permit?**

A: Probably. However, some minor repairs may be conducted with just a Project Engineer's letter and details specific to the repairs required. A detailed plot plan is required for total rebuilding of structures.

**Q: How much will the permit cost?**

A: Building permit fees are based on the value of the project and square footage which should be submitted when applying for the building repair permit.

**Q: What if the building is completely destroyed?**

A: A permit application for the replacement residence or structure will be processed the same as any new structure in the County. The typical plans and specifications required for a new structure are required for a replacement structure. *NOTE: If the existing foundation is to be used for a replacement structure, a Colorado Registered Structural Engineer's inspection and wet-stamped report/letter of adequacy will be required. Permit and plan check fees are based on the square footage and valuation of the new structure.*

**Q: Will permit fees for replacement structures or repairs be waived or reduced?**

A: The County is anxious to be supportive of Larimer County citizens impacted by the High Park and Woodland Heights fires while being fair and responsible with County resources. Insurance policies should cover building permit fees for replacement structures and structures subject to repair/alteration permits damaged or lost in the fires.

An appeal process is being established for those owners who are not insured or are underinsured based on the Commissioner's approval on June 26, 2012 of the following proposal concerning building permit fees to rebuild and/or repair structures damaged or destroyed in the High Park Fire and the Woodland Heights Fire:

*Fees associated with a building permit to replace a damaged or destroyed structure caused by the High Park Fire or Woodland Heights Fire will not automatically be waived or reduced by Larimer County. If an owner wishes to seek a fee reduction or waiver based on hardship, the owner may submit a written appeal to the County addressed to the acting Planning Director. The acting Planning Director will process the appeal, which may include Board of County Commissioner input. A written determination will be provided to the applicant within thirty (30) days from the date of the written appeal.*

*If the acting Planning Director or Commissioners waive or reduce fees normally collected by the Building Department for deposit into the Building Department's revenue fund, the Commissioners will reimburse the Building Department for such fees using General Fund revenues.*

*Use tax collection fees attached to building permits for residences cannot be waived by the Commissioners.*

*This handout is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. Please contact the Larimer County Building Department at (970) 498-7700 for further information.*

June 27, 2012



# Debris Disposal Guidance

07/19/2012

Wildfires can create an unexpected emergency situation that warrants a rapid response. A prompt cleanup will enable residents to move forward with their lives while minimizing potential public health and environmental issues. Leaving the materials in place for a prolonged period may exacerbate environmental issues such as water contamination from runoff. In light of this situation, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is temporarily waiving certain regulatory requirements that might otherwise apply.

## Debris and Ash - Handling and Disposal Issues

The forest ash deposited by wildland forest fires is relatively nontoxic and similar to ash that might be found in your fireplace. However, any ash may contain unknown substances, including chemicals. In particular, ash and debris from burned structures may contain more toxic substances than forest fire ash, because of the many synthetic and other materials present in homes and buildings. For example, car batteries or mercury light bulbs may have been present in the buildings. In addition, older buildings have a greater potential to contain asbestos and lead.

Care should thus be taken when handling any materials from buildings that are either partially damaged by the fire (i.e., salvageable building materials remaining) or completely destroyed by the fire (i.e., only ash and debris remain). Protective clothing and equipment should be worn to avoid skin contact and inhalation of ash and other disturbed material.

All debris and ash from burned structures should be handled in a manner that will minimize potential exposure to any unknown hazardous materials that could potentially be present in the debris. Soil under the area where the ash/debris was deposited should be scraped to ensure that all ash and building debris has been removed from the site.

- Debris and ash from burned structures must be thoroughly wetted to minimize dust, and placed in an end-dump roll-off or dump truck that has been lined with 6 mil plastic sheeting. The top of the roll-off or dump truck must then be sealed with the plastic sheeting to secure the contents during transport once the roll-off is loaded (e.g. a burrito wrap).
- The roll-off or dump truck can be taken to one of the landfills listed below. Please call the landfill contact listed below before loads are transported to alert the landfill that the material is coming, confirm waste acceptance, and initiate a waste profile.
- If you wish to bring the materials to a different landfill, please contact the landfill to ensure that they can accept the material.

The landfill should be informed that the material has come from the fire area. Contractors should consult with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at (303) 844-5285 to determine required training and personal protective equipment that will be required for those handling this material.

A state-issued demolition permit is not required to remove the ash and debris from buildings that have been partially or completely destroyed. However, the ash and debris must be thoroughly wetted prior to handling to minimize dust.

Metal debris must be washed clean of ash/debris prior to recycling.

Concrete debris (foundations) must be disposed of at an approved landfill. If you wish to recycle this material, it must be inspected by a certified asbestos building inspector and found to be free of asbestos-containing materials prior to recycling.

## Asbestos

If asbestos-containing material is known to be present in ash or debris in amounts greater than the trigger levels, they must be removed in accordance with Colorado Regulation No. 8, Part B. Trigger levels for single family residential dwellings are 50 linear feet on pipes, 32 square feet on other surfaces or the volume equivalent of a 55 gallon drum. If this is not known, the material may be handled and disposed of using the procedures outlined above.

The following landfills are accepting High Park Wildfire ash, soils, and debris **and** waste materials known to contain friable asbestos. Additional landfills may be added to this list or may be contacted directly.

1. LARIMER COUNTY LANDFILL  
5887 South Taft Hill Rd.  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
Steve Harem: 970-498-5770

2. Republic Services Landfill, Inc.  
ALLIED WASTE SYSTEMS  
8480 Tower Road  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
Amy Hobbs: 720-490-0230  
303-459-8752

3. Denver Arapaho Disposal Site (DADS)  
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF COLORADO  
3500 S. Gun Club Road  
Aurora, CO 80018  
Jeff Sprowls: 720-947-2114  
Jason Chan: 720-876-2633  
303-598-1790  
Gary Baldwin: 720-977-2104  
303-618-0230

4. Buffalo Ridge Landfill  
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF COLORADO  
11655 WCR 59  
Keenesburg, CO 80643  
Jeff Sprowls: 720-947-2114  
303-886-9693  
Bill Hedberg: 1-970-686-2800, X23  
1-970-418-8268  
Gary Baldwin: 720-977-2104  
303-618-0230

5. Republic Services Landfill, Inc.  
ALLIED WASTE SYSTEMS  
8900 Hwy 93  
Golden, CO 80033  
Amy Hobbs: 720-490-0230  
303-459-8752

The landfills list above and following landfills are accepting High Park Wildfire ash, soils, and debris that **do not** contain friable asbestos. Additional landfills may be added to this list or may be contacted directly as noted above.

1. Front Range Landfill  
WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.  
1830 Weld County Rd. 5  
Erie, CO 80516

Brian Karp: 303-673-9431  
720-839-6311  
Jeff Burrier: 303-673-9431  
303-968-9508

2. North Weld Landfill  
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF COLORADO  
40000 Weld county Rd. 25  
Ault, CO 80610

Bill Hedberg: 1-970-686-2800, X23  
1-970-418-8268

Please contact the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment at 970-498-6775 with questions regarding these debris disposal issues.

Please contact Amy White at Larimer County Building and Code Enforcement (970) 498-7708 or [awhite@larimer.org](mailto:awhite@larimer.org) to determine local permit requirements.

If you need additional information, please contact Charles Johnson at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Health Solid Waste Unit at 303-692-3348 or [Charles.Johnson@state.co.us](mailto:Charles.Johnson@state.co.us), or the Asbestos Unit at 303-692-3100 or <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/asbestos/index.html>.