

RETURNING HOME CHECKLIST

1. WAIT FOR OFFICIAL CLEARANCE

- Only return home when authorities advise it's safe to do so. Follow their guidance closely.

2. HAVE BASIC SUPPLIES READY

- Try to get all essential supplies before returning home as supplies will be limited.

3. PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

- Inspect the exterior of your property for any visible damage to structures, fences, or landscaping.
- Check for signs of fire damage on your roof, walls, and windows.
- Assess the condition of outbuildings, sheds, and other structures.

4. ENTER YOUR HOME WITH CAUTION

- Be cautious when entering your home. Look for signs of smoke or fire damage inside your home, including soot, charred materials, or lingering odors.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home. This helps remove any lingering smoke or odors.

5. CHECK FOR GAS LEAKS

- Smell and listen for any signs of gas leaks. If you suspect a gas leak, leave your home immediately and contact the gas company or emergency services.

6. INSPECT UTILITIES AND APPLIANCES

- Gas, Water, and Sewer Lines: Check for any visible damage to gas lines or water and sewer pipes. If you notice leaks, turn off the main supply and contact professionals.
- Run faucets for a few minutes to flush out stagnant water. If you suspect contamination, use bottled water until water quality is confirmed.
- Electrical Appliances: Inspect electrical appliances for damage. Look for signs of overheating.

7. CHECK REFRIGERATED FOODS

- Inspect your refrigerator and freezer for spoiled food. If the power was out during the evacuation, some perishable items may have gone bad.
- Dispose of any spoiled food properly.

8. PHOTOGRAPH ANY DAMAGE OR SPOILED FOOD FOR INSURANCE CLAIMS

- Document any damage or spoiled food for insurance purposes with pictures and videos.

10. MONITOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Health Precautions: Be mindful of respiratory issues due to lingering smoke. Use masks if necessary.
- Emotional Well-Being: Returning home after an evacuation can be stressful. Reach out to friends, family, or support services if needed.
- Be mindful of children's behavior - they are stressed from being displaced, too. Let them help the family ease back into a normal schedule but relax the rules for a while.

12. FUTURE PREPAREDNESS

- Review and update your emergency preparedness plans and evacuation procedures.
- Take proactive steps to mitigate future wildfire risks, such as creating defensible space around your property and maintaining fire-resistant landscaping.
- Stay informed about wildfire risks and community evacuation plans to be better prepared for future emergencies.

9. CLEAN UP ANY ASH AND DEBRIS

- Interior Cleaning: Remove ash and debris from your home. Use a damp cloth to clean and sanitize surfaces and vacuum carpets to eliminate fine particles.
- HVAC System: Change or clean air filters in your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Ash and smoke can clog filters.
- Yard and Garden: Inspect your yard for fallen branches, damaged fences, and other hazards. Clear any debris that could pose a risk.
- Outdoor Furniture: Check outdoor furniture for damage. Secure or store it properly.

11. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Stay informed about community resources and support services available for wildfire recovery.
- Connect with neighbors and local organizations for assistance and mutual support.
- Participate in community recovery efforts and contribute to rebuilding efforts where possible.



Remember to prioritize safety and take necessary precautions when returning home after an evacuation. If you have any specific concerns about your return home, consult local authorities or emergency services