



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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DEBRIS REMOVAL DEADLINE DECEMBER 15

Survivors of the CZU Lightning Complex fires are reminded that the deadline to sign up for debris removal and complete right-of-entry forms is Dec. 15, 2020.

The County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and CalOES are providing free, public option debris removal services for fire-damaged properties, which may include the removal of damaged structures, vehicles and hazardous trees. Property owners may also opt for private debris removal services provided they first obtain approval from the County. In either case, applications must be filed by Dec. 15.

Structural remains and toxic ash pose a significant threat to human and environmental health, and must be properly disposed in order to protect public health and safety. Property owners with fire-damaged structures must enroll in the debris removal program by Dec. 15 or risk being charged for county-managed cleanup services.

Sign up at <https://www.santacruzcounty.us/FireRecovery/DebrisRemoval.aspx>. The site includes an FAQ and town hall video describing the debris removal process, which includes community questions. Property owners may also make an appointment with Santa Cruz County Environmental Health by calling 831-454-2022.

Structures of 120 square feet or less may be subject to exemption from the debris removal process. To file for an exemption, go to www.santacruzcounty.us/FireRecovery/DebrisRemoval/ExemptionInformation.aspx.

Once debris removal is completed, property owners will receive a certificate of completion from Santa Cruz County Environmental Health. The Santa Cruz County Planning Department will not approve temporary housing permit applications or rebuilding permits unless the property owner can produce a completion certificate.

For the free public option, the County will collect from private insurance companies any funds available to cover cleanup costs once the homeowner has been paid for non-covered removal activities (such as retaining wall or swimming pools). Homeowners will not be subject to any out-of-pocket costs. See our FAQ for more information.