

Fire Recovery for Childcare Providers: What you need to know about Air Quality Alerts and Cleanup

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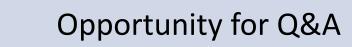


What we will cover today

Air quality protection tips and how to monitor air quality



How to safely cleanup your ECE site post fire





Public Health Acknowledgement

- Acknowledge the unimaginable loss, stress, fear, and personal challenges so many of you are facing.
- Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by these devastating fires.
- We wish everyone safety and healing in the challenging days ahead.
- Your safety and well-being are our top priorities.



Air Quality Concerns

The LA County Health Officer issued several smoke advisories.

These advisories provide public messaging on reducing exposure to smoke and unhealthy air.

Wildfire smoke is a mixture of small particles, gases and water vapor. The primary health concern is the small particles, which can cause burning eyes, runny nose, scratchy throat, headaches and illness (i.e., bronchitis).

> People at higher risk, <u>children</u>, the elderly, those with respiratory or heart conditions, and people with compromised immune systems, may experience more severe effects such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, coughing, fatigue, and/or chest pain.



Recommendations When Air Quality is Unhealthy

Keep children indoors to limit exposure.



Keep indoor air clean by closing windows and doors. Use air conditioners that recirculate air to filter out harmful particles.



Monitor children for symptoms and contact parents as necessary. For life-threatening symptoms, call 911.

Wear an N95 mask if you/children must go outside.



Air Quality Alerts from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

 Go to AQMD.gov, click on "Air Quality". This will bring up a map showing air quality throughout the South Coast Air Basin.
Zoom in to see specific areas.

| CATEGORY | RECOMMENDATION |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Green (Good) | No problems |
| Yellow (Moderate) | Unusually sensitive people should limit outdoor activity |
| Orange (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) | Sensitive groups (such as children) shorter and less strenuous activity outside |
| Red (Unhealthy) | Avoid long outside activity or move activity indoors |
| Purple (Very Unhealthy) | Avoid outside activity |
| Deep Red (Hazardous) | Warning of Emergency. Everyone should avoid all activity outdoors |



Air Quality Alerts and Advisories

- How to sign up to receive air quality alerts from AQMD
 - Go to <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/air-alerts</u>
 - Download the App for Apple or Android Devices (click on link)
 - Can also sign up to receive Air Quality Advisories via email



Preparing for Fire Related Cleanup

- 1st priority: Your safety
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - ✓Wear a tight fitting respirator (N-95, N-100, or P-100)
 - Long sleeved shirts, pants, shoes and socks
 - Gloves appropriate for the tasks (leather work gloves, rubber kitchen gloves, nitrile)
 - ✓ Goggles
 - Bring bottled water for hydration
 - Assess the situation before taking any action. If it isn't safe alone, come back later with additional assistance



Cleanup Process Following a Fire

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Ventilate the Property. Open windows and doors to allow the smoke smell to dissipate.



Wear PPE and wash off any ash that is on the skin regularly. All clothing should be washed at the end of each day cleaning.



When cleaning, try not to get the ash into the air. Misting an area with water before wiping, sweeping or mopping will help prevent ash getting airborne.



Shop-vacs and non-HEPA vacuum cleaners are not recommended.



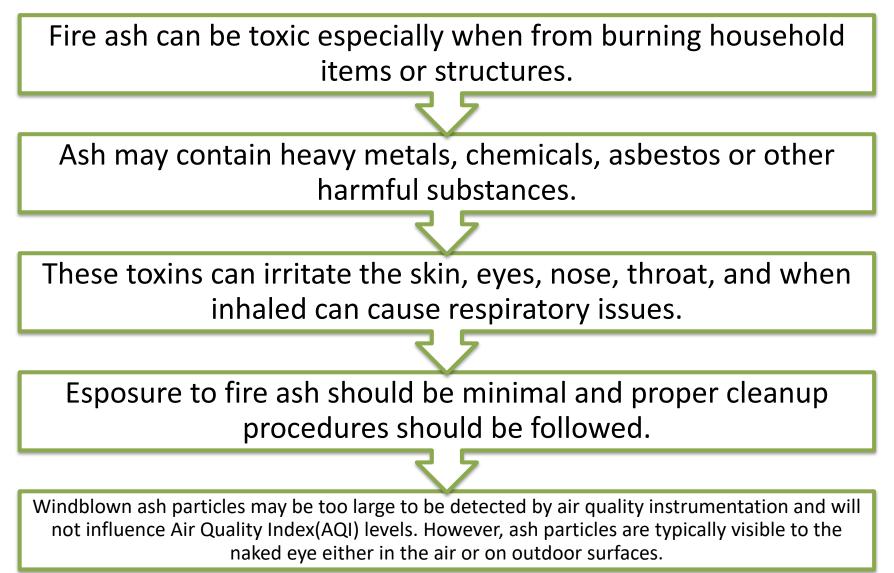
Wash all toys and items that will be used by children.

If they cannot be submerged in water they should be wiped with a cleaning wipe





Specifics About Fire Ash





Cleanup Process Following a Fire (Continued)

- To remove soot and smoke from walls, furniture and floors, use a mild soap or detergent or mix 4 to 6 tbsp. of tri-sodium phosphate with 1 cup household cleaner or chlorine bleach to every gallon of warm water.
- Be sure to rinse surfaces with warm water and dry thoroughly.
- Wash walls one small area at a time, starting from the floor up to prevent streaking.
 Immediately, rinse with water.
- Wash ceilings last.



For additional information:

http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/safety/how-to-clean-up-smoke-soot-fromfire-en.pdf



Cleanup Process Following a Fire (continued)



If there are burned items on the property, they should be placed into a garbage bag and disposed of in the regular trash.



Any fabric items that are small should be laundered before children are able to interact with them again.



Larger fabrics, or other more difficult to clean items: refer to LA County Public Health Cleaning Guidance found at: <u>http://ph.lacounty.gov//eh/safety/returning-home-after-</u> <u>fire.htm#clean_up</u>



Cleanup Process – Food Item

Much of the evacuation areas have been without power for several days. Perishable items in refrigerators without power should be disposed of.

Open containers of shelf stable food: Open boxes of things like pasta should be disposed of due to the possibility of ash contamination. Sealed containers of shelf stable food: Wipe the outside of the container and keep the food (for this purpose treat drink containers as food)



Resources:

Safe cleanup and handling of ash and debris to avoid skin irritation and respiratory issues http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/safety/how-to-clean-up-smoke-soot-from-fire-en.pdf (available in multiple languages)

Returning Home After a Fire <u>http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/WildFire/docs/returninghome/ret</u> <u>urning-home-after-fire.pdf</u> (additional languages pending)

Fire Safety and Health Information http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Wildfire/#protecting

AQMD Air Quality

Advisory updates: http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory

Current air quality: http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap



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