

Re-Entry Guidance for Wildfire Burn Area

This information is meant to identify the primary hazards associated with entry into a Wildfire Burn Area.

Limit your observation of the property to 10-15 minutes to minimize your exposure to the hazards listed below.

Toxic Hazards

Ash or Dust: Wildfires deposit large amounts of ash on outdoor surfaces in nearby areas, which may cause irritation of the skin, nose and throat. Ash and dust (particularly from burned buildings) may contain toxic and cancer-causing chemicals, including asbestos, arsenic, and lead. Wear a mask and use gloves.

Physical Hazards

Debris: Broken glass, exposed electrical wires (whether they are “live” or not), nails, wood, metal, plastics and other solid objects commonly found in areas of fire damage can cause puncture wounds, cuts, and electrical injuries.

- **Avoid unstable building structures**, if present, including flooring, stairways, railings, balconies, roofing, chimneys, and fire escapes. Be aware of the possibility that these areas may collapse at any moment.
- **Open doors and entryways to storage areas carefully**, as stored materials may have moved into unstable positions and could fall.

Trees: Avoid burned or damaged trees, as they may be unstable and can fall.

Roadways, Sidewalks and Driveways: Use caution, as these and other outdoor areas may be damaged or unstable causing slip, trip and/or fall hazards. In addition, use caution as these areas may be covered in snow and/or ice causing slip hazards.