

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Wildfire Recovery Guidance for Health and Home Safety

- Know the location and status of your nearest medical treatment facility, and verify that the route to reach it is passable.
- Be sure a clean water supply, electricity and communication system (including 911 access) is restored, reliable and readily accessible.
- Be certain areas not yet cleaned or not safe are not accessible to children.
- **Never** use generators, space heaters or any gas or kerosene appliances in enclosed spaces, as this may result in carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Wash any home-grown fruits or vegetables before eating.
- Clean all children's toys before using.
- Avoid broken glass, exposed electrical wires (whether or not they are "live"), nails, wood, metal, plastics and other solid objects commonly found in areas of fire damage, which can cause puncture wounds, cuts, electrical injuries and burns from smoldering materials.
- Watch for ash pits and mark them for safety. Ash pits are holes full of hot ashes, created by burned trees and stumps. Falling into ash pits or landing in them with your hands or feet can cause serious burns.
- Avoid unstable building structures including flooring, stairways, railings, balconies, roofing and fire escapes. Children should not be permitted in the residence or permitted to play on nearby fire-damaged buildings or structures until these have been cleared by local authorities.
- Materials in storage areas may have moved into unstable positions and could fall. Doors and entryways to storage areas should be opened carefully.
- Floors may be slippery.
- Avoid burned or damaged trees, as they may be unstable and fall.
- Be cautious about using roadways, sidewalks, bridges and other outdoor structures, which may be damaged or unstable.

If you need additional information, please contact the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division at 303-692-2700.