



Returning home after a wildfire? Take time to do it safely.

As evacuation areas begin to reopen, remember that hazards may remain even after the flames have passed. Firefighters and support crews may still be working throughout the area — extinguishing hot spots, patrolling fire lines, and continuing suppression and recovery efforts. Please use caution, follow posted guidance, and give emergency personnel room to work.

Before entering a fire-impacted area:

- **Stay alert for hazards** — watch for downed power lines, fire-damaged trees, unstable structures, ash pits, and debris.
- **Use caution around burned areas** — hot spots can remain underground and may flare up without warning.
- **Drive carefully** — roads may be damaged, narrowed by debris, or have limited visibility due to smoke and ash. Fire personnel may be working along roadways.
- **Keep children and pets away from hazards** — burned areas can contain hidden dangers.
- **Food Safety** — If your home was without power, check refrigerated and frozen foods before consuming them. When in doubt, throw it out – discard any perishable food that has been above 40 degrees F for more than two hours or shows signs of spoilage.

If your personal property was impacted by fire:

- **Wear protective gear** — sturdy shoes, gloves, long sleeves, and an N95 mask can help protect against ash and debris.
- **Check utilities before use** — do not turn on gas, electricity, or water systems until they have been inspected and cleared.

Reentry is an important step toward recovery, but fire areas can remain hazardous for some time. Stay informed, follow guidance from local officials, and allow firefighters and crews the space they need to continue their work safely.

Smoke will continue to be visible in the area as firefighters continue their mop-up efforts across the fire. Air quality information is available on www.fire.airnow.com.

[Recovery Resources | Emergency Management](#)

[Akawa Butte Fire Assistance Request](#)

