

CHECKLIST

For Returning Home After a Fire

When driving to your property check for:

- ☐ Trees, brush, and rocks which may be weakened or loosened by the fire. Trees and brush weakened by fire may lose limbs or fall. Rocks loosened by fire may roll and crumble. If rocks have rolled down a slope expect more to follow.
- ☐ Debris or damage from the fire on roads and driveways.
- ☐ Debris on the road near your home and in your driveway. Clearing the debris to the edge of your driveway and removing it later will help keep your home safe from fire.
- ☐ Utility poles weakened by the fire.

At your property, check for fire or fire damage:

- ☐ Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof, and under overhangs.
- ☐ Hot embers under the deck and in crawl spaces.
- ☐ Hot embers in wood piles, debris piles, and lawn.
- ☐ If your well or pump house is in working order.
- ☐ If your electric service has not been interrupted you may continue to use your power for such things as pumping water, etc.

If your services are off, check for burned service equipment & facilities:

- ☐ Is there damage to the gas meter, gas lines, propane tank, or propane regulator. If there is ANY visible damage, DO NOT attempt to repair or turn on these services. Call your local propane company or utility service.
- ☐ Look at the electric meter. If there is any visible damage DO NOT attempt to turn the breaker(s) on.
- ☐ If there are any electrical wires on the ground, STAY CLEAR and contact your electric service office.

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When you have secured the safety of the outside or your home, check inside for fire or fire damage:

- ☐ Embers in the attic which may have entered through the vents.
- ☐ If electricity is off, before turning it on, check all appliance to make sure they are actually off. Once you are sure all appliances are turned off, there is no fire damage to you building, and the meter does not have any visible damage, you may turn on the main circuit breaker.
- ☐ Check if the phone is working.
- ☐ Check if the security system and alarms are working (*if any*).
- ☐ Use a flashlight to help you inspect your home and surrounding area(s).

If you find any of the following conditions:

Fire

- ☐ Stay away and report condition to a local fire or law enforcement official in the area or call Fire information.

Damage Utility Equipment

- ☐ Report electrical problems and damaged equipment to your local electric utility service provider.

Gas/Propane Leaks

- ☐ Report gas/propane service problems to your local service provider.

Other

- ☐ Report emergencies to 911.

After checking your property, continue to use caution and note outdoor conditions:

- ☐ Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking, should be considered hazardous.
- ☐ Smoldering holes in the ground can be full of hot coals.
- ☐ White ash is evidence of hot material.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention



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