

# RETURNING HOME AFTER A WILDFIRE

*Once a wildfire has burned through an area, many dangers may remain.*

*Follow these precautions when returning home.*

## IF YOU FIND ANY OF THESE CONDITIONS:

### FIRE & OTHER EMERGENCIES

**Stay away, report the condition to a local fire or law enforcement official, and call 9-1-1.**

### DAMAGED UTILITY EQUIPMENT

**Report electrical problems and damaged equipment to your local utility.**

### GAS LEAKS

**Report gas problems and damaged equipment to your local utility company.**

## WHEN DRIVING TO YOUR PROPERTY CHECK FOR:

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

## WHEN YOU HAVE SECURED SAFETY OUTSIDE YOUR HOME, CHECK INSIDE FOR FIRE OR FIRE DAMAGE.

- Embers in the attic, which may have entered through vents.
- If electricity is off, before turning it on, make sure all appliances are turned off. Once you are sure all appliances are turned off, there is no fire damage to your 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.
- Use flashlights to help inspect your home and surrounding area.

## AFTER CHECKING YOUR PROPERTY CONTINUE TO USE CAUTION AND NOTE OUTDOOR CONDITIONS:

- Trees & 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.

## AT YOUR PROPERTY, CHECK FOR FIRE OR FIRE DAMAGE

Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof and under overhangs.

Hot embers under decks and in crawl spaces.

Hot embers in wood piles, debris piles and lawns.

If well or pump house is in working order.

If your electrical 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, or propane tank? If there is ANY visible damage, DO NOT attempt to repair or turn on these service. Call your local propane company or utility. Look at the electric meter. If there is any visible damage DO NOT ATTEMPT to turn the breaker on.

If there are electrical wires on the ground, STAY CLAR and contact your local utilities immediately.

