



## Returning Home After Caldor Fire Evacuations

- Residents are asked to limit their travel as much as possible due to fire traffic and for the safety of the firefighters and residents.
- Residents are asked to stay on their properties and should only travel from their homes to pick up essential needs such as groceries, supplies, etc.
- Residents should be prepared to evacuate again should hazardous conditions occur.
- Residents should watch for heavy fire truck traffic. Do not drive distracted (no texting and driving).
- Residents are encouraged to drive with their headlights on for increased visibility.
- Residents are encouraged to stock up on essential needs before returning home. Local shops and businesses may see a delay in shipments and supplies.

### WHAT YOU MAY NOTICE

- Firefighters may still be working in your area with structure protection equipment. Fire response equipment will be removed when it is no longer needed. Please do not interfere with firefighters as they are working.
- Vegetation may have been altered to make the area more secure from fire.
- Brush may have been cut and/or piled, trees may have lower branches removed, and some trees may have been cut down in certain areas to eliminate risk. Watch for potential overhead hazards.
- Resident firewood piles may have been moved away from their properties to eliminate fuel against structures.

### BE BEAR AWARE

- It's always bear season in The Lake Tahoe Basin! Keep bins closed and locked, contain all garbage to protect from animal access.
- Make sure to keep all animals out of garbage by:
  - Making sure garbage is curbside no sooner than the morning of collection.
  - Using cans with tight fitting lids, even inside bear boxes.
  - Making sure bear boxes are secure.
  - Be a part of the solution to mitigate animal access.

### POTENTIAL BURN ZONE DANGERS

- 'Hot spots' may flare up without warning. Expect islands of unburned fuel within a fire area. Smoke and possible isolated flare-ups may occur for several weeks.
- Hot spots could include smoldering stumps, an occasional torching tree, or burning underbrush within the existing fire perimeter.
- Not all hot spots need to be extinguished if they are a safe distance from fire lines or structures. Unless immediately adjacent to your home or outbuilding, allow the hot spot to burn out on its own.
- All other non-threatening smoldering areas can be monitored for any changes.
- Avoid ash pits and vocalize their location and warn family and neighbors to keep clear of the pits. It is common for roots to burn deep in the ground for several weeks. This hazard has potential to burn pets.

- It is very common for fire damaged trees or burned structures to fall and for rocks and other debris to come cascading down slopes. If it is windy, leave the area to avoid being struck.
- Watch out for downed power lines, contact your power company about the status of these utilities.
- Some areas may see an increased risk of flooding and mudslides should heavy rain occur. Flood risk may be higher while vegetation regrows.
- It is a good idea to take photographs right away to document any fire damage to your property.

#### **POTENTIAL HAZARDS INSIDE THE HOME**

- Gas or carbon monoxide leaks may occur; residents are encouraged to inspect their homes and call proper utility providers to have suspected leaks inspected by a professional inspector.
- Exhaust from generators is toxic. Only operate generators outside, away from doors, vents or windows.
- If the power has been out, refrigerated or frozen foods should be thrown away.
- Food in cans and jars should be discarded if they have been exposed to extreme heat. Heat from a fire can activate food spoilage from bacteria.
- Raw foods stored outside of the refrigerator and foods stored in packaging such as cardboard cellophane, or plastic wrap, should be discarded if it has been exposed to smoke fumes from burning materials. Hazardous fumes can permeate packaging and contaminate food.
- Residents should use proper dumpsters or bear boxes that are intended for spoiled food to eliminate hazards from bears.

#### **PUBLIC UTILITIES**

- Evacuated residents with water service provided by your local utility consider running internal taps for a couple minutes upon returning to ensure fresh water in their homes.
- Water that has remained in service lines during evacuation periods can result in customers detecting taste and odor issues that may be easily addressed by flushing the taps. Your water is safe to drink.
- The main distribution system piping was not affected by fire and the integrity of the overall system has not been affected, as confirmed by an ongoing and rigorous water quality testing program.

#### **INSURANCE**

Residents in evacuation warning zones are encouraged to:

- Contact their home or renters insurance company to check their policy. Confirm coverage limits and deductible, and ask about auto insurance coverage. Comprehensive auto coverage on a vehicle is needed to cover damage from wind, falling objects, fire, flood or vandalism.
- Make a home inventory. Take photos of each room in your home. Do not forget storage areas, such as the attic, shed, and garage. Use the National Association of Insurance Commissioner's home inventory smartphone app available to download on App Store and Google Play.
- 3. Build a financial backpack. Gather important legal and financial documents (Social Security cards, insurance policies, financial accounts, titles) and make copies or scan them to your phone or computer.
- Be sure to place the home inventory and copies of documents with your go-bag of emergency supplies, so you have it when it is time to evacuate.

**If mandatory evacuations are ordered residents in these zones are encouraged to:**

- Contact their insurance company as soon as they can. Tell them you have been ordered to evacuate, and confirm your policy coverage and deductible.
- Save all receipts. Many insurance companies will help cover vital expenses, such as lodging, food, and pet boarding.
- 3. Work on a home inventory list. Start building a list of your personal possessions. Organize your list by rooms, look through photos to help jog your memory, and take your time.

If consumers have questions about insurance coverage, they should speak to their insurance company or agent. If they still have questions or concerns, the Nevada Division of Insurance can help.

- Call (888) 872-3234 (toll-free) ·
- Email [csc@doi.nv.gov](mailto:csc@doi.nv.gov)
- Visit [doi.nv.gov](http://doi.nv.gov)

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- Residents may not have power or telephone service and are encouraged to exercise caution as it may be difficult to call for help if there is a serious injury or emergency.
- When working outside or in a burned area, it is encouraged to wear leather gloves and heavy soled shoes.
- Local and state officials are reminding visitors to practice extreme caution while traveling on the roadways. As roads open up, traffic can be heavy. Please plan travel accordingly and be patient behind the wheel.

**LOCAL UTILITY NEEDS**

- [Round Hill General Improvement District](#) Phone: (775) 588-2571
- [Kingsbury General Improvement District](#) Phone: (775)588-3548
- [Douglas County Lake Tahoe Sewer Authority](#) Phone: (775) 588-3558
- [South Tahoe Refuse](#) Phone: (530) 541-5105
- [Douglas County \(roads\)](#) Phone:(775)783-6480

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

- [Tahoe Family Services](#) Phone:(530) 541-2445
- [Barton Health](#) Phone:(530) 541-3420

Please report any suspicious activity or damage to your property to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office  
Non-Emergency Dispatch: (775) 782-5126

**For Recovery and Resource Information:**

- Douglas County Nevada Caldor Fire webpage: (QR Code)  
[https://www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/emergency\\_management/current\\_emergencies/caldor\\_fire](https://www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/emergency_management/current_emergencies/caldor_fire)
- Nevada State Department of Emergency Management: <https://dem.nv.gov/>

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