



SONOMA
ECOLOGY
CENTER

FOR LANDOWNERS OF BURNED STRUCTURES AND/OR VEHICLES

Emergency Watershed Protection

WHY

Houses and structures that burned in the recent fires have left behind toxic ash and debris that includes sulfates, nitrates, asbestos, and heavy metals. This toxic waste can spread across land and wash into our waterways during heavy rains, so keeping the ash and debris in place until it can be properly removed is very important to watershed health, wildlife, and public safety.

Government agencies and private contractors are required to follow established procedures for removing toxic ash and debris from burned sites with structures and vehicles. It is a complex multi-step process that won't be complete before heavy rains come this winter.

WHAT

SEC is engaging landowners, volunteers, and donors to strategically protect Sonoma Valley streams and public health by installing containment materials around burned structures and vehicles to contain toxic ash and prevent runoff into yards and streams.

Prioritize: SEC is using maps and science to prioritize and sequence the work, targeting first the sites where structures and/or vehicles burned in close proximity to creeks and fish-bearing streams.

Assess: SEC staff will assess the site and determine which containment and protection methods to use. More than one method may be used on a single site.

Install: Materials may include sandbags, straw-filled wattles, seed and/or loose straw. Wattles and sandbags are placed immediately around the burned structures and vehicles, to contain toxics. Seed and straw is placed next to the wattles and other disturbed soil. We may include additional erosion control measures. Please note, toxic containment is the first priority, followed potentially by general erosion control.

Maintain: Wattles and sandbags need maintenance to remain effective throughout the rainy season. SEC staff will periodically inspect, repair and/or replace materials as needed.

Remove: Sandbags and wattles used for toxic containment must be removed along with other toxic waste when either the Army Corps of Engineers or the private debris removal contractor completes that work.

****Make sure the debris removal contractor removes all containment materials and installs new erosion control materials to protect your property following debris removal and excavation of contaminated soil. Follow-up erosion control materials should include: straw, hydro-mulch, and wattles or silt fence.***

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

- Please complete the Landowner consent form and include as much detail as possible to help our crews to safely access and complete work on your property.
- Let your neighbors know about our services. Help us reach displaced landowners.
- More volunteers are needed to help. Email info@sonomaecologycenter.org with your interest.
- SEC is seeking additional contributions to complete emergency watershed protection as quickly as possible. To contribute, please visit <https://www.sonomaecologycenter.org/sonoma-valley-fires-fund/>.

For questions about the consent form or about the protection materials installed on your property, please email info@sonomaecologycenter.org or call 707- 996-0712 ext 124.

P.O. Box 1486
Eldridge, CA 95431

www.sonomaecologycenter.org
info@sonomaecologycenter.org

707-996-0712 (p)
707-996-2452 (f)

Sonoma Ecology Center is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. Federal EIN# 94-3136500