

Catastrophic wildfires destroy homes. Decimate communities. And endanger our neighborhoods with toxins like asbestos, lead and arsenic.

Removing toxic debris is the critical first step for survivors to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Since 2007, more than 23,000 wildfire survivors trusted California to safely clean up their properties and make their communities a place they want to rebuild.

After the flames are extinguished, survivors have enough to worry about – replacing belongings, dealing with paperwork, finding a place to stay, and grieving [survivors walking through ash.

And many are underinsured – if insured at all.

With no out-of-pocket costs to survivors – the state-managed program does far more than the average contractor to help communities recover.

California protects families and neighborhoods throughout the process:

- Ensuring soil -- that will once again be home to vegetable gardens and swing sets -- is safe enough for kids to play on;
- Keeping toxins from running into waterways and groundwater;
- Preventing dangerous debris from becoming airborne;
 - Even as it's transported to end-use facilities;
- And, in coordination with local officials, tracking each load of debris to reduce traffic and make sure the debris goes safely where it's supposed to go.

Every step along the way is managed with state and federal oversight – and fully documented to ensure accountability and verify safety for all. Giving survivors the confidence to move forward with the rebuilding process.

With so many challenges ahead for wildfire survivors, the government-funded debris removal program offers a safe, fast, and no-cost option to help families recover and rebuild.