



# Evacuation Return



## SAFETY MESSAGE

With the re-population and personal loss evaluations of your homes and property CAL FIRE Incident Management Team 2 wanted to provide you with a safety message emphasizing areas of concern that you might not otherwise be aware of. Anytime there is a structure fire there are certain hazards associated with it. Many of these hazards are already mitigated, however there are still some that may be present. The following safety message is provided as a guide to help keep you safe during this process.

- **What to wear:**
  - Boots, jeans, gloves, long sleeve, dust masks and eye protection.
  - Do not wear shorts or flip flops.
- **Use extreme caution when in and around what appears to be cold ash, it still may contain heat:**
  - Constantly be aware of your surroundings.
  - Work in pairs and groups.
  - Stay task focused and do your best to avoid distractions while you're working.
- **Traffic safety:**
  - Be aware of a large volume of fire department, utility company and media traffic. If possible, please avoid bringing children and pets into the area.
  - When operating your vehicles in the damage area, please stay focused and avoid distractions.
- **Use caution when in and around damaged structures:**
  - Be aware that some residences may have cellars and hidden void spaces that you could fall into.
  - Hidden nails and sharp objects are most likely present, be cautious where you place your feet.
  - Be on the lookout for free standing chimneys that may fall without warning.
  - Treat all downed wires as energized unless advised otherwise by utility company personnel.
- **If firearms are found:**
  - Assume that all firearms are loaded.
  - If you find a potentially loaded firearm and are not familiar with it, leave it where it is, keep it pointed in a safe direction, and contact the owner to place it in a safe location.
- **Ash and other burned materials contain chemicals that could be hazardous to you and your loved ones. Please consider the following before departing from your property:**
  - Wash your hands and boots before leaving your property and entering your vehicle.
  - Wash your clothes before hugging your loved ones.
  - Avoid placing your hands around your face and mouth before they are cleaned.
  - Bring wet ones for keeping yourself clean.

In closing, it is our wish that you would remain safe during this difficult time. In keeping safe please remember the above simple yet effective safety suggestions. If you have further concerns about returning to your residence please consider looking at the following internet web sites:

<http://www.redcross.org/>, or [www.fema.gov/](http://www.fema.gov/)