

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

September 12, 2024

**Phase 2 of Consolidated Debris Removal Program Approved for Borel Fire Properties**

*Kern County, CA* – Kern County Public Health has received notification from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) that Phase 2 cleanup of residential properties destroyed in the Borel Fire has been approved by the state. This second stage of the cleanup process will focus on removing the remaining structural ash and debris from properties, at no cost to residents, following the initial phase of hazardous waste removal currently underway. Residents will be required to apply for this assistance and provide right of entry for these services to be provided on their property.

Kern County is holding an informational meeting regarding Phase 2 of the Consolidated Debris Removal Program for Borel Fire victims. Representatives from Kern County Public Health, Kern County Public Works, Kern County Planning and Natural Resources and CalOES will describe the program and disseminate information, including the right of entry paperwork, as well as answer questions.

**Borel Fire victims are invited to join us Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at the Lake Isabella Senior Center, 6401 Lake Isabella Blvd. in Lake Isabella CA.**

On August 26, 2024, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) began Phase 1 cleanup efforts which is expected to take approximately two more weeks to complete. We urge community members to refrain from entering the burn area footprint without personal protective equipment, refrain from disturbing the remaining ash and debris, and not begin cleanup activities. Hazardous debris after a wildfire can be toxic, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can create dangerous health impacts throughout the community.

For more information:

- Kern County Public Health: <https://kernpublichealth.com/returning-home-after-a-wildfire/> or 661-321-3000.
- Borel Fire Community Resources and Information: <https://www.kerncounty.com/Home/Components/News/News/3202/34810>
- Borel Fire Call Center: 661-873-2660

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