

Wildfire Asbestos Survey Guidance

Best practices for accredited asbestos inspectors sampling burned structures

The following information applies solely to properties burned by the 2020 wildfires:

Almeda Fire, Archie Creek Fire, Beachie Creek Fire, Brattain Fire, Echo Mountain Complex Fire, Holiday Farm Fire, Lionshead Fire, Mosier Creek Fire, North Cascade Complex Fire, Powerline Fire, Riverside Fire, Slater Fire, South Obenchain Fire, Two Four Two Fire, White River Fire

DEQ asbestos rules require a survey before renovation or demolition. A survey is required for all commercial facilities, and for all residences with four or fewer dwelling units built before Jan. 1, 2004, to prove that no asbestos is present in ash and debris. However, materials may be presumed to contain asbestos and disposed as asbestos-containing materials without a survey. The materials must be packaged, labeled, transported and disposed according to the requirements in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-248-0280.

DEQ recommends the accredited inspector do the following:

- Attempt to identify room locations (such as kitchen, bathrooms, etc.) to map homogeneous areas.
- Construct a grid system to identify homogeneous areas.
- Distinguish the difference between fine ash and burned [suspect building materials](#).
 - Identify the materials to the best of your ability, for example “presumed drywall” or “presumed vinyl flooring.”
- Make a best effort attempt to safely locate suspect materials that may be hidden beneath ash and debris.
 - Burned but identifiable building materials should be sampled and analyzed for asbestos.
- Use professional judgement to determine the correct number of samples to obtain for the survey.
 - DEQ regulations (OAR 340-248-0270(3)) require at least one bulk sample of any homogeneous material and at least three random samples of sprayed or troweled on materials.
 - DEQ recommends using the 3-5-7 Sampling Rule as is described in EPA 40 CFR 763.86 (Surfacing Material) to ensure representative samples are obtained.
 - 3 samples for less than 1,000 sq. ft.
 - 5 samples from 1,000-5,000 sq. ft.
 - 7 samples for greater than 5,000 sq. ft.
- Use a qualified [analytical laboratory](#).
 - If a lab analysis is completed and identifies asbestos at greater than one percent, all ash and debris from the structure must be handled, packaged, labeled, and disposed as asbestos-containing waste material.
 - Some materials, such as metal, may be separated, cleaned, and disposed of as non-asbestos containing material.
 - If asbestos is identified at quantities less than or equal to one percent, the material is not regulated by DEQ; however, Oregon OSHA rules may still apply for contractors conducting cleanup.
 - DEQ regulations require a quantitative analysis to identify asbestos in a sample. However, due to difficulty in sampling and the mixing of ash and debris materials, a qualitative analysis may be sufficient to identify the presence of asbestos. If this is performed, and the lab analysis identifies asbestos in any of the materials, DEQ recommends all ash and debris be considered asbestos-containing and abated properly.

Other considerations for sampling hazardous materials:

- In addition to surveying for asbestos-containing materials, disposal facilities may require additional testing and documentation for other [hazardous materials](#).

Additional Resources

State of Oregon Wildfire Cleanup Page

<https://wildfire.oregon.gov/cleanup>

DEQ Wildfire Page

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/default.aspx>



State of Oregon
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Quality

Asbestos Program

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www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

DEQ Asbestos Information

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Information.aspx>

List of DEQ Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractors

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/asb-contr.pdf>

List of Accredited Asbestos Inspectors

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Documents/asbAccredInspector2020.pdf>

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) Wildfire Page

<https://www.lrapa.org/324/Ash-Cleanup>

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Asbestos Program Contacts

Office	Address	Phone	Counties
Portland	700 NE Multnomah St. Suite 600 Portland, OR 97232	503-229-5982 or 800-452-4011	Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington
Salem	4026 Fairview Industrial Dr. Salem, OR 97801	503-378-5086 or 800-349-7677	Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill
Medford	221 Steward Ave. Ste. 201 Medford, OR 97501	541-776-6107 or 877-823-3216	Jackson, Josephine, Eastern Douglas County
Coos Bay	381 N Second St. Coos Bay, OR 97420	541-269-2721, Ext. 222	Coos, Curry, Western Douglas County
Bend	475 NE Bellevue Dr. Suite 110 Bend, OR 97701	541-633-2019 or 866-863-6668	Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco
Pendleton	800 SE Emigrant Ave. Suite 330 Pendleton, OR 97801	541-278-4626 or 800-304-3513	Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency	1010 Main St. Springfield, OR 97477	541-736-1056	Lane