



CLEANUP: Debris and Waste Management

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Wildfire recovery brings with it many unique and challenging disposal issues. The recovery process starts with cleanup - which can be unique for each property owner.

Take steps to prepare and plan for removal of debris and waste as a result of wildfire. Consider the following, and what you'll need for cleanup:

1. Hire a licensed contractor for a *Hazardous Waste Materials Survey* (see next section).
2. Confirm if the property is located in a riparian zone and if so, review [WLRS Riparian Area Guidance](#).
3. Cleanup your property.

Here is the [SLRD Waste Disposal Resource Quick Guide](#) to help with the process.

The SLRD will assist property owners as they navigate the cleanup process wherever possible. If you have questions, please contact the SLRD at utilities@slrd.bc.ca for more information related to cleanup and waste management.

Insurance Note: Always check with your insurance provider first regarding the disposal of solid waste related to wildfires. Insurance may cover the costs of the Hazardous Waste Materials Survey, removal and disposal. If you have no insurance or are underinsured, the SLRD has established the [Hazardous Material Survey Reimbursement Program](#) to assist with survey costs.

STEP 1

Prepare for cleanup.

The SLRD requires property owners whose properties have experienced structure damage and/or loss due to wildfire to have a *Hazardous Waste Materials Survey* completed.

Hire a WorkSafeBC-approved licensed contractor to perform the *Hazardous Materials Waste Survey*. A list of contractors can be found on the bottom of our [Asbestos Management page](#).

The licensed contractor you choose will:

- Assesses the entire property;
- Identifies potential risks;
- Conduct testing for asbestos and other contamination;
- Create a report on all the hazards.

Once the survey is conducted and the results are given to you, email the survey report along with a completed [Asbestos Declaration and Acknowledgement Form](#) to the SLRD at utilities@slrd.bc.ca.

What is a *Hazardous Waste Materials* survey?

This survey tests for asbestos and toxic contamination before any disposal of debris or waste. Burnt buildings and residual ash may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos and toxic chemicals and are subject to special disposal regulations to protect the health and safety of workers and the public.

Providing the survey report and *Asbestos Declaration and Acknowledgement Form* will allow us to provide an SLRD-approved Declaration Form that is needed to dispose of ANY waste at the Gold Bridge Transfer Station or the Lillooet Landfill. All burnt debris (contaminated or not) requires an approved Declaration Form before disposal. The SLRD will also be able to give more information on your disposal process.

Eligible property owners may have access to funding for this step. Visit [Hazardous Material Survey Reimbursement Program](#) for more information.

STEP 2

Review new WLRS riparian guidelines.

The SLRD received notification of new guidelines from WLRS indicating that residents impacted by the 2023 Wildfires will not be required to engage a Qualified Environmental Professional or apply for a Riparian Development Permit to conduct clean-up on their properties. However, a Riparian Development Permit will still be required for the reconstruction of buildings or construction activities within the RAPR-defined setbacks.

- For further information and guidance, please review the [PDF Supplemental Guidance For Riparian Areas Cleanup Activities](#) prepared by WLRS. Questions can be directed to RiparianAreas@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca.

WLRS has confirmed that reimbursement has been approved for residents impacted by the 2023 wildfires that hired a qualified environmental professional for riparian permits for debris cleanup prior to receiving notification of the new guidelines. The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is supporting WLRS to contact residents to facilitate the reimbursement. If you have not been contacted, please check your voicemail for outstanding messages, or contact EMCR.ProvincialRecovery@gov.bc.ca.

STEP 3

Once forms are in place, cleanup can begin.

Whether your cleanup involves heavy machinery or is surface level (will not disturb the ground or vegetation), you will need the following:

- A completed *Hazardous Waste Materials Survey* for any cleanup related to wildfire recovery.
- An [Asbestos Declaration & Acknowledgement Form](#) - signed by the SLRD. This is required to drop off burnt debris at the Gold Bridge Transfer Station or the Lillooet Landfill.
- To have reviewed the [WLRS Guidance for Riparian Area Cleanup Activities](#) (*if applicable).

*If your cleanup is only surface level and does not require heavy machinery, you will not require riparian guidance.

Advance notice of 10 days is required before waste disposal. Please email your Hazardous Waste Materials Survey and completed Asbestos Declaration and Acknowledgement Form to utilities@slrd.bc.ca.

Here is the [SLRD Waste Disposal Resource Quick Guide](#) to help with the process.

Please note the Gold Bridge Transfer Station is offering no tipping fees and no load limits for scrap metal, fridges, and freezers. Unfortunately, concrete debris is not accepted. However, the Gold Bridge Transfer Station is temporarily accepting ash from residents who have completed the [required approval process](#). Upon receiving approval, please note:

- The number of bags will be limited based on current station capacity.
- Ash must be double bagged in 6 mil bags, sealed shut and labelled.
- Disposal for commercial entities is available at the Lillooet Landfill & Recycling Centre.

The SLRD recommends property owners hire qualified professionals for safe disposal. Should contractors or residents discover through analytical testing that they are dealing with asbestos and/or toxic materials, please review the [Province's Hazardous Waste Regulation](#) or contact an asbestos abatement company to deal with this hazardous material on your behalf.

Concrete

We recognize concrete removal is a barrier to the recovery journey of some individuals, and have received further guidance and clarity from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOE) and the Ministry of Water Land Resources Stewardship (WLRS) with some options for navigating this:

- Property owners can store concrete temporarily or permanently on their property, if it is outside of the Riparian Zone and above ground.
- Concrete can be reused onsite for fill or landscaping as long as it is not buried and is reused outside of the Riparian Zone. Materials cannot be mixed with demolition debris or brought from other sites.
- Burying concrete for waste disposal on properties is not permitted as it is considered a discharge of waste to the ground.
- Waste concrete material that cannot be reused or remain on a property should be disposed of at the Lillooet Landfill.
- More information on concrete cleanup and removal can be found on the recovery website [Concrete FAQs](#).

Fridges and freezers

Fridges or freezers can be taken to the Gold Bridge Transfer Station, with no tipping fees. The fridges and freezers must be cleaned before being disposed of for the safety of the staff.

More information and helpful tips for cleaning out the fridge and freezers can be found in the [SLRD's Re-entry Guide](#).

Stumps and wood waste disposal

The Gold Bridge Transfer Station at this time, depending on capacity, can accept roughly a half-ton truck load of debris. When determining how much you are bringing to the station, consider that the stumps and wood waste needs to be disposed of manually – if it is too heavy to be disposed of manually, the station will not be able to accept it.

The Gold Bridge Transfer Station organizes a burn at the end of each year. The size of a burn pile is regulated by the province and therefore, the Transfer Station's capacity to burn onsite varies. Therefore, the capacity due to current circumstances related to recovery may mean capacity is limited.

What if we want to burn our wood waste on our property?

For information related to burning on your property– visit the [Province's website](#) for more information on regulations and guidelines.

Danger trees

Hiring a professional contractor for the removal of danger trees is recommended, as local disposal sites cannot currently accept full trees. Contractors can assess your property and remove trees to an appropriate disposal site. Contractors may also be able to recommend options for timber sales.

Asbestos-contaminated debris

Before any removal of asbestos contaminated debris, please provide the SLRD with the name of the licensed contractor and your *Hazardous Materials Waste* Survey report by email: utilities@slrd.bc.ca. Based on the results of your report, the SLRD will provide instructions on how and where to dispose of the debris.

Drop off of asbestos-contaminated debris, based on a *Hazardous Waste Materials* Survey report, requires an appointment made in advance due to special handling necessary for the safety of SLRD disposal site employees. You can book an appointment by email: utilities@slrd.bc.ca.

Additional requests:

- A signed and approved SLRD [Asbestos Declaration and Acknowledgment Form](#) is needed for disposal and given to the attendant at the disposal site.
- Asbestos-contaminated debris must be in 6 mil plastic bags and also double-bagged, labelled as asbestos and sealed.

For additional information, visit [Asbestos Management](#) or the BC Government's resource on [Managing Waste Asbestos](#).

Burnt vehicles/ATVs/snowmobiles

Contact the SLRD at utilities@slrd.bc.ca to discuss your specific circumstance. If possible, please include images in your email. A few considerations:

- Depending on the location of the burnt vehicle on your property, you may need to conduct the *Hazardous Waste Materials* Survey (see page one) before disposal.
- The Gold Bridge Transfer Station, at this time, can accept burnt metal. However, the SLRD must first receive the [Declaration Form](#).
- When approved for disposal, ensure the vehicle is free of dust and ash. Safely clean the vehicle, following more cleaning safety tips in the [Re-entry guide](#).
- SLRD transfer facilities do not accept loose ash; therefore, we ask that all ash is bagged.
- All metal (to be recycled) needs to be washed down and free of dust and ash.

Illegal dumping

To **report illegal dumping**, please submit a [Violation Report](#) through RAPP and a [Bylaw Enforcement Witness Report](#) to the SLRD.



Additional information:

- [Downtown Lake Wildfire Waste Disposal resource quick guide](#)
- [Gold Bridge Waste Transfer Station](#)
- [Lillooet Landfill & Recycling Centre](#)
- [Downtown Lake Wildfire Recovery Website & FAQs](#)

SLRD Contact:

Wildfire debris disposal: Environmental Services Department

Phone: (604) 894-6371 ext. 292

Email: utilities@slrd.bc.ca