

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR RE-ENTRY AND CLEAN-UP AFTER THE FIRE

- Use caution when bringing children and pregnant women into an area with ash and damaged structures until cleanup is completed. **Do not leave children unattended at burned properties.**
- Watch for repeated coughing, nausea, unusual fatigue or dizziness, particularly if there is a medical history of chronic lung disease (like **asthma or COPD**) or **heart disease**.
- **Don't breathe the ash from the fires.** Ash can irritate your respiratory system. Adults should use a protective mask (**N-95 or P-100**) while in areas where ash particles cannot be controlled. N-95 masks must be properly fitted and are not designed for children or people with facial hair; subsequently, they will not provide full protection.
- **Protective clothing is important.** Wear goggles, heavy work gloves, watertight boots with steel toes and insoles (not just steel shank), long sleeves, and long pants to avoid skin contact. Handle all burned plastics with gloves because toxins may come off the plastic.
- **Debris:** Watch for broken glass, falling trees and exposed debris such as wires, nails, wood, metal, plastic and tree limbs.
- Watch for **ash pits** and mark them for safety. Ash pits are holes of hot or cold ashes, created by burned trees and stumps. Falling into ash pits can cause burns and injuries.
- Get a **tetanus shot** if you have not had a booster in the last 10 years or cannot remember when your last shot was. Contact your healthcare provider or JCPH at 303-239-7078 more information.
- **Food Products:** If your house has been damaged and you find nonperishable food items that survived the fire, we recommend that you **DO NOT** use them. Although the containers may appear to be intact, high temperatures may have caused the seams to fail and expose the contents to contamination.
- If you lost power during the fires, we strongly recommend that you discard the contents of your refrigerator or freezer. Perishable food such as meat, poultry, seafood, milk, and eggs that are not kept adequately refrigerated or frozen may cause illness if consumed, even when they are thoroughly cooked. **If in doubt, throw it out!**

For more detailed information see the Jefferson County Public Health Wildfire webpage at: <https://www.jeffco.us/3865/Wildfires>

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