



Marion County **OREGON**

PUBLIC WORKS

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Date: June 1, 2021

To: Santiam Canyon Property Owners

From: Marion County Emergency Management

RE: June 30th Deadline To Apply For Wildfire Debris Cleanup Program

Dear Santiam Canyon Property Owners:

The statewide wildfire debris cleanup effort is progressing quickly and time is running out for property owners to opt into this free wildfire recovery program. The Oregon Department of Transportation is leading the effort to remove structural debris, hazardous materials and hazard trees from private properties damaged in the 2020 wildfires. 45% of wildfire-damaged properties in the Santiam Canyon have already been cleared and are ready for reconstruction. The statewide wildfire cleanup service is absolutely free to property owners.

If you own wildfire-damaged property in Marion County and have not yet opted into the statewide wildfire cleanup program, now is your time to act! **The deadline for Marion County property owners to opt into the statewide wildfire debris cleanup program is June 30, 2021.** To opt into the program, property owners must submit a Right of Entry Agreement to Marion County using one of the following options:

Option 1 – Submit Online

1. Go to the Marion County website (www.co.marion.or.us), and
 2. Select the ‘**Wildfire Recovery**’ tab at the top of the webpage,
- and
3. Select the ‘**Right of Entry form**’ link

Call (503) 934-1700 if you have any questions about completing your online Right of Entry agreement.

Option 2 – Complete a Hard Copy Application

You can obtain a hard copy application at:

1. Service Integration Team Office (11758 Sublimity Road SE in Sublimity)
2. Gates City Hall (101 East Sorbin Street in Gates)
3. Marion County Public Works, Building 1 (5155 Silverton Road NE in Salem)

Call (503) 588-5036 if you need assistance obtaining a Right of Entry form.

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If your property burned in the wildfires and you have not taken steps to begin cleanup or haven't decided how you will clean up your property, I urge you to take advantage of this free program. The following pages describe the program and provide answers to frequently asked questions. If you have additional questions or are undecided about your cleanup options and would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at (503) 588-5036 or bnicholas@co.marion.or.us.

Sincerely,



Brian Nicholas, Director
Marion County Emergency Management

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How do I find and track the cleanup status of my property?

If you have chosen to participate in the statewide wildfire cleanup and have submitted a Right of Entry agreement to Marion County, you can use the Statewide Debris Removal Task Force's interactive online map to check the cleanup status of your property: wildfire.oregon.gov/cleanup.

You may see crews performing wildfire recovery work in your area or on your property. If you have chosen to participate in the statewide cleanup you can expect:

- Crews to install green address signs on the edge of your property to track property details;
- Crews to assess burned structures and soil for the presence of asbestos and other contaminants to ensure environmental compliance;
- Professional and certified arborists to evaluate, mark, and remove hazard trees identified as a threat to people or property;
- Heavy equipment to clear debris from burned structure areas; and
- Crews to monitor dust levels and air quality during debris removal work.

How does the debris removal process work?

Wildfire debris cleanup will occur in the following stages.

Planning – The Statewide Debris Removal Task Force has affirmed your Right of Entry agreement and debris removal questionnaire are on file. The Task Force has grouped your property with similar properties for the next phase, Safety and Environmental Planning.

Safety and Environmental Planning – Crews are on your property assessing, marking and cutting down hazard trees; collecting samples for asbestos testing; installing address signs and verifying information from your debris removal questionnaire; identifying the location of your septic system and pumping your septic tank, if possible; and, planning erosion control measures for your property.

Ash and Debris Cleanup – Crews are on your property removing ash and debris; monitoring air quality and applying dust control measures; and testing soils for contaminants left by the wildfire.

Ready to Rebuild – Once ash and debris cleanup is complete, property owners will receive a letter from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) documenting the results of the cleanup. The property is then ready for rebuilding.

You will find a status map and additional resources on the Statewide Debris Removal Task Force website at wildfire.oregon.gov/cleanup.

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What is the process for assessing and removing hazard trees?

The Task Force has a team of arborists assessing trees and identifying hazard trees based on their current and expected health, and their proximity to public roads and debris cleanup locations. Hazard trees that pose a threat to roadways and work crews will be cut by the Task Force. The arborists mark these hazard trees with a blue dot and a plastic barcode. Trees cut on private parcels remain the property of the property owner and will be decked and stacked on site for owner to salvage as firewood or for other uses. Trees cut from within the county road right-of-way will be decked and stacked near the edge of the right-of-way, if it is safe to do so, for the adjacent property owner to use.

Is it too late to opt into the statewide wildfire cleanup?

No, it is not too late! There is still time to sign-up for the cleanup program by submitting a Right of Entry agreement to Marion County. Visit the Marion County Wildfire Recovery web page at www.co.marion.or.us/fire to fill out and submit a Right of Entry agreement. Once your Right of Entry agreement has been processed, the Task Force will send you an online questionnaire asking for additional information about your property, which they'll use to plan out their cleanup work. Don't wait too long to opt in, though. The deadline for submitting a Right of Entry agreement and opting into the program is June 30, 2021.

If I haven't signed a Right of Entry agreement, do hazard tree crews still have the right to enter my property?

Yes, if your property is located next to a state highway. In Oregon, the Department of Transportation has the authority to enter onto private property to remove imminent hazards to state highways. In Marion County, crews will not remove hazard trees more than one tree height from the edge of the road, unless the trees pose a hazard to cleanup crews.

There is a septic system on my property. Will the contractor remove my septic system? What if it is not damaged?

This is a very important question and **all property owners should read the following information.** The debris removal contractor is required to protect your septic system in place if it can be located. Furthermore, under most circumstances, an undamaged and functional septic system can be reused when you rebuild your home. **The best way to prevent damage to your septic system is to mark the perimeter of your septic system, including the tank and drain field, using wooden stakes and caution tape.** Stakes and caution tape can be purchased at any home improvement store. This may greatly reduce the chances your septic system is damaged during debris removal. Property owners should contact the Marion County Building Division at (503) 588-5147 with any and all septic questions.

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Who do I call with concerns or questions?

Please call the Debris Removal Task Force hotline with questions about hazard tree or ash and debris removal.

Hotline: (503) 934-1700 Email: ODOT.Wildfire@odot.state.or.us

You may also contact Marion County Public Works at (503) 588-5036 for additional assistance.

Where can I learn more about the overall cleanup process?

The Debris Removal Task Force website wildfire.oregon.gov/cleanup has information about the overall wildfire recovery process. In addition to the interactive online map described earlier in this FAQ, you'll find helpful information in multiple languages, an online link to the Private Property Debris Removal Questionnaire and opt-out forms, among other tools and information. If you have not yet signed up for the Task Force's monthly e-newsletter, we encourage you do so. For more of the latest news, visit the Task Force's news blog: DebrisCleanUpNews.com.