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Butte County to Hold a Community Meeting to Assist Concow Fire Victims with Debris Removal

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2008 – 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Bill Mannel (530) 879-2350

Oroville, CA – Butte County officials will hold a community meeting to assist fire victims in the Concow area with debris removal. The meeting will be held at the Concow Grange, located at 4122 Big Bend Road on Thursday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Representatives from Butte County Departments of Public Works, Public Health – Environmental Health Division, and Development Services will be present at the meeting and will provide information on how these county agencies can assist in fire debris removal and post-fire recovery. Department representatives will make presentations and be available to answer questions from the residents impacted by the fires.

“Fire debris can contain hazardous substances such as asbestos, heavy metals (lead, cadmium, mercury), and pesticides to name a few,” said Bill Mannel, Butte County Solid Waste Manager. “Hazardous materials disposed in the landfill can cause long-term detrimental effects. In addition, fire debris can cause significant surface and ground water contamination if not handled properly.”

In an effort to prevent potential contamination resulting from fire debris and protect the health of residents, county agencies are making a concerted effort to educate fire victims and offer assistance. Butte County and CalEPA will provide inspections and removal of identifiable hazardous materials at NO COST to property owners if they sign a Right of Entry Permit form. A county “bin” program is available to fire victims as well. Butte County Public Works Department will provide bins and waive landfill fees for those fire victims that qualify for the assistance program. Contact the Fire Debris Coordinator for more information, 879-2352.

Right of Entry forms and Participation Agreement (Bin Program Application) will be available at the meeting. These forms are also available on the county website at www.buttecounty.net. Fire victims attending the meeting should bring property address information, current contact information and insurance information so that county staff can assist fire victims.

Since many fire victims have been displaced from their homes and may not always have access to media, residents are strongly encouraged to share this information with their family, friends, and neighbors.

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