



Welcome Home



WELCOME HOME

Congratulations on completing your home. The strength of our community is clear – neighborhoods have strong social ties and people are supporting each other to rebuild in Sonoma County. This guide gives an overview of resources to assist you as you move into your home.

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County Support in Rebuilding Areas



The County is providing services to fire-impacted areas while rebuilding continues. This includes frequent monitoring of construction activity permit compliance, ongoing assessment of water quality as it pertains to storm water, and chipping services.

CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT

The County is making regular inspections in rebuilding areas to ensure that contractors are staging and transporting building materials in a safe and appropriate fashion. Please contact the Resiliency Permit Center at 707-565-1788 if any concerns arise.

STORM WATER & WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Property owners and contractors on rebuild sites are required to implement measures referred to as Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent pollutants, including sediment, from entering storm drains, creeks, rivers, and wetlands. Property owners with vacant sites not yet rebuilt, are also required to implement BMPs. The County routinely checks rebuilding areas during the wet months (October through April) with an emphasis on protecting the environment and ensuring contractor compliance during rebuilding. Inspections ensure adequate wet weather protections are in place and functioning well. Visit sonomacountyrecovers.org/rain-ready/ for information on how to make your property ready for winter rains.

FREE RESIDENTIAL CHIPPER SERVICE

The County has a free chipping program to help property owners with fire debris and to help residents maintain defensible space around structures and reduce vegetation along access routes. County crews will chip curbside for up to three hours. Your eligible chipping material must be piled and ready to go before you submit your application. The chipper can handle material up to 7 inches in diameter and up to 10 feet long. Fill out an application and find out more at sonomacounty.ca.gov/Fire-Prevention/Chipper-Program.

Things to Do When You Move into Your Home



There are a few things you must do before or as soon as you move into your home:

- Connect to utility services
- Verify adjustments to your property taxes
- Re-establish Mail Service

CONNECT TO UTILITY SERVICE

You'll want to re-establish your utilities and garbage services right away. Below is the contact information for the local service providers.

Garbage

Recology

800-243-0291

recology.com/recology-sonoma-marin/

Water

If the previous home on your property was connected to a water system, you'll need to contact your local water purveyor to reconnect.

Sewer

If you are in Larkfield Estates, you can learn more about the voluntary sewer service connection by visiting

sonomawater.org/Larkfield

Gas/Electric

PG&E

800-743-5000

pge.com (Go to Rebuilding After Wildfires)

Internet/Phone

AT&T

800-288-2020

Comcast/Xfinity

800-945-2288

Sonic

1-888-766-4233

Things to Do When You Move into Your Home Continued



VERIFY ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

The Sonoma County Assessor's Office was provided a copy of your approved house plans, which is used to determine any potential tax adjustments. Additional information regarding any potential adjustment to assessed values can be obtained by contacting the Assessor's Office at 707-565-1888 or by visiting sonomacounty.ca.gov/Assessor.

RE-ESTABLISH MAIL SERVICE

Property owners must re-establish the same mode of mail delivery that existed prior to the fires, meaning a mailbox must be reconstructed in the same location and support the same number of boxes that existed prior to the fires. This ensures that additional mail service stops are not added to any route. If the existing mailbox was removed as part of the demolition process and the pole location and box count is not clear, contact the postmaster at your local post office to determine your previous mode of delivery. Property owners will be responsible for covering the full cost of the post and box replacement. Shared posts containing two or more boxes were common in rebuild areas. Placing a post designed to support multiple boxes may require coordination with your neighbors. If you are unable to contact the adjacent property owner, you may move forward with the installation of a double post at the property line coupled with a single box to serve your property. It's possible that the mail post previously occupied a location that is now being utilized for the purpose of providing temporary power to the area or is within an area currently undergoing underground utilities restoration work. If your situation requires relocation of the mail post, contact the postmaster to discuss alternate locations.

Due to potential delivery interruptions associated with parked cars or construction activities during the rebuild, property owners are encouraged to reduce the number of delivery locations and centralize boxes at easily accessible areas. Cluster Box Units, or CBUs, are currently required on all new development projects and allow for the placement of multiple mail slots within a single unit. This type of delivery method may be suitable for cul-de-sacs or other areas that struggle with delivery interruptions due to a high volume of street parking. For those areas that did not have CBUs prior to the fire, upgrading to this mode of delivery is considered optional. This installation type will require coordination with surrounding property owners in order to determine size and placement. Contact the Postmaster to discuss upgrade options and potential incentives.

What You May Need To Do



The following items may apply to you. We recommend you double check to make sure all items are covered upon your move-in.

- Obtain Operational Manuals for Energy Efficient Household Components
- Test Backflow Devices
- Test Well Water
- Contact Your Insurance Agent

OBTAIN OPERATION MANUALS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSEHOLD COMPONENTS

Contractors are required, by code, to provide a property owner with resource materials for the operation of all energy efficient household components such as windows, appliances, doors, water-efficient plumbing fixtures and HVAC components. Contact your contractor directly if this information was not provided at occupancy.

TEST BACKFLOW DEVICES

The rebuild processes likely triggered changes to the design of the water line serving your property. In addition to a larger supply line, a backflow device has been installed behind the meter box to preserve the quality of the public water supply by protecting against water siphoning back into the public water main. Backflow devices are required anytime fire sprinklers are placed within the structure. To find out more information contact your local water purveyor.

TEST WELL WATER

Private well water is not regulated by any government agency. Although your well water may taste and smell fine, the only way to know your well water is safe is to test it. It is the responsibility of the individual property owner to ensure that their drinking water supply is safe by having the well water tested by a state certified laboratory. View a list of Laboratories that can perform these tests on the County of Sonoma Environmental Health & Safety website:

sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Environmental-Health/Water-Quality/Water-Testing/.

CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT

Contact your insurance agent prior to moving into your home and inform them of any home hardening features which could lower your insurance premium.

Things to be Aware of as Rebuilding Continues in your Neighborhood



The following information may be useful while rebuilding is still underway in surrounding areas of your neighborhood.

HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL

Following the October 2017 wildfires, more than 10,000 trees were evaluated by a qualified arborist along 90 miles of roads within the burn areas. Fire-damaged trees designated as high or extreme risk to public safety were removed. Beginning in Summer 2019, burned trees in the public right-of-way that are designated as moderate risk will also be removed. Individual property owners are responsible for the removal or maintenance of fire-damaged trees within private property lines. If you have concerns regarding fire-damaged trees on neighboring properties, you may file a Code Enforcement complaint online at sonomacounty.ca.gov/SoCo-Report-It/. Concerns related to trees near power lines should be directed to PG&E vegetation wildfire safety at 877-295-4949 or wildfiresafety@pge.com.

ILLEGALLY PARKED VEHICLES

Vehicles may remain parked at any curbside public parking location for up to 72 hours. Street parking is allowed along the curb and outside of the travel lane in any areas not marked by a red curb or posted with "no parking" signs. Parked vehicles may not block access to existing fire hydrants or driveways. Report abandoned vehicles in the public right-of-way to the California Highway Patrol at 707-588-1400. Any vehicle parked in the public right-of-way with a registration expired for 6 months or greater may be towed at any time and is not permitted to remain within a designated public parking location for the 72-hour period. To report a vehicle that is parked on private property, submit your report online at sonomacounty.ca.gov/SoCo-Report-It/.

CONSTRUCTION: RIGHT-OF-WAY

The term "right-of-way" refers to roadway, planter strip and sidewalk areas dedicated to the public for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian transportation purposes. Due to space constraints, rebuilding activities must, at times, encroach into the public right-of-way. This encroachment may take the form of activities such as material storage, operation of heavy construction equipment, material deliveries or the placement of construction vehicles and debris containers. Contractors working within the street and sidewalk areas are required to maintain a safe environment for individuals traversing through the rebuild areas.

Things to be Aware of as Rebuilding Continues in your Neighborhood Continued



CONSTRUCTION BOUNDARIES

A majority of the construction activities associated with the rebuild should be contained within the boundaries of the parcel being rebuilt. Contractors may, at times, place materials in a fashion that causes items to encroach into an adjacent parcel. There may also be occasions in which workers traverse through your lot or loose debris travels across the property lines. You are encouraged to first attempt to work with the neighboring contractor or property owner to address any of the above issues. If you are uncomfortable approaching the offending party, you may contact the Resiliency Permit Center at 707-565-1788 to discuss options.

Resources



RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES

- Wildfire Mental Health Collaborative – Call NAMI at (866-960-6264) or visit mysonomastrong.com
- Rebuilding Our Community (ROC) Sonoma County – Call (707) 535-3349 or visit rocsonomacounty.org
- Catholic Charities Disaster Case Management – Call (866) 542-5480
- Santa Rosa City Schools' Integrated Wellness Center - Call (707) 890-3827 or visit srcschools.org/domain/2112
- Jewish Community Free Clinic - Call (707) 585-7780 or visit jewishfreeclinic.org/
- Sonoma Community Resilience Collaborative - Call (707) 303-3600 or visit srhealth.org/about-us/resilience-collaborative/
- Wellness And Advocacy Center Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Support - Call (707) 565-7800 or visit wellnessandadvocacy.org/

NEIGHBORHOOD PREPAREDNESS

Contact the County of Sonoma for materials on neighborhood preparedness plans. The County works closely with Neighbors and Neighborhoods who are an integral part of implementing any preparedness plan or program. If you are interested in being a Neighborhood Leader, please contact the Community Preparedness team at the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management to learn more contact Nancy Brown, PHD by phone at 707 565-3528 or via email at Nancy.A.Brown@sonoma-county.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Services: sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Fire-Prevention/
- Sonoma County Office of Recovery and Resiliency: sonoma.county.ca.gov/ORR
- Sonoma County Recovers: SonomaCountyRecovers.org/
- Additional Preparedness Information: SoCoEmergency.org