

City of Detroit Update

09-27-20

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The State of Oregon, in coordination with federal, state and local partners, are working on strategies to address the significant task of fire debris removal. Addressing the fire debris is broken into a two-step process. The first step is clearing properties of household hazardous waste to minimize exposure of hazardous materials to the public. The second step is general debris removal.

The state will be funding the 25% match (FEMA funding the remaining 75%) for cleanup of household hazardous waste, so that this work can happen at no cost to counties or property owners. The Debris Management Task Force is working to get boots on the ground as soon as possible and is coordinating with counties to keep their communities informed. The Task Force is a coordinated, multi-agency team consisting of the Office of Emergency Management, Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Contractors working in conjunction with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be assessing and removing hazardous materials that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Household hazardous waste includes items such as propane tanks, pesticides, batteries, herbicides, paints and large pieces of asbestos. No other materials will be removed.

The next thing we need from property owners is a signed access agreement so cleanup teams can do their work efficiently. Starting in early October, staff will be working in counties to help with this process. It is critical that property owners complete access agreements as soon as possible so that cleanup work can begin.

Access agreements will be available to submit to your county online and at drop off locations. Links to county webpages with this information will be available here soon.

STAY STRONG DETROIT!

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Why this process is important

We understand that, as Oregonians, we want to return to our communities and begin the recovery process. Waiting for a larger process to get set up can seem frustrating, but there are important reasons for doing this.

1. Save Money

Removal of household hazardous waste and debris can be an incredibly expensive process, costing as much as \$75,000. Even with insurance, a majority of this cost may not be covered. The state is committed to paying for removal of household hazardous waste, which means that property owners can reserve their insurance funds for other recovery efforts.

2. FEMA Reimbursement and Eligibility

Currently, FEMA has only approved certain materials for removal and reimbursement, and very specific documentation procedures must be followed. The state will be paying for EPA cleanup teams to come out and do this work, which removes the financial risk from local property owners.

3. Threat to Your Health

Doing your own cleanup without proper protection puts your health at risk. Burned materials are hazardous and require more than gloves and a mask to protect your health. Buildings constructed before 2004 are likely to contain asbestos, which is carcinogenic.

4. Difficult to Dispose

Many landfills require specific documentation of the waste people drop off so they can handle it properly and comply with their regulation. This can include lab results to determine what hazardous materials are in your debris. If you do not have the proper documentation, you may not be allowed to dispose of your debris.