



# PLUMAS COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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## POST WILDFIRE INCIDENT BUILDING DEPARTMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### GENERAL

**Question: Where do I go for immediate help with planning, building, code enforcement, and engineering questions?**

**Answer:** The Plumas County Department of Planning and Building Services is located at 555 Main Street in Quincy, across the street from Dame Shirley Park.

**Question: What planning and building standards apply right now?**

**Answer:** Current federal, state, regulations and local ordinances continue to apply. County staff will provide information and approve permits according to those regulations. At this time, the County has not adopted emergency ordinances in regards building permits.

**Question: Where do I apply for a permit?**

**Answer:** Planning and Building Services staff at the Local Assistance Center (LAC) can provide you with information, application forms, and application guides, and help you to begin to fill them out. Staff are not able to approve any permits at the LAC – all building and planning applications must be submitted in person or by mail to Planning and Building Services at 555 Main Street, Quincy, CA. 95971 (ph. 530-283-7011).

### CLEANUP AND DEMOLITION

**Question: When/How can I remove the debris from my property?**

**Answer:** The County is working with state and federal partners who will assess each property for household hazardous waste and asbestos and remove those materials from each property. After the property has been cleared of hazardous waste, the property owner can either sign up for a state debris removal program (recommended) or perform their own cleanup under oversight of the Environmental Health Department. The hazardous waste and debris removal program through the state and federal programs will not have any out-of-pocket costs for the property owner. Cleanup requirements for property owner cleanup are currently being developed. **Ash and debris shall not be moved on or from the property without approval from the Environmental Health Department.**

**Question: Do I need a permit for demolition of my structure?**

**Answer:** No. Removal of hazardous waste and debris which will be verified through the approved Clean-up Process will suffice in place of a demo permit.

## **GENERATORS**

**Question: Can I use a generator on my property, and what standards apply?**

**Answer:** Noise standards do not apply to the use of any generator associated with an emergency. After the current emergency, properties must reconnect to the electric utility service when available, or comply with residential generator noise standards. If the generator needs to be enclosed or fixed to a foundation, then a building permit is required.

## **REBUILDING**

**Question: Can I rebuild on the same foundation?**

**Answer:** Heat from the fire very likely compromised the structural integrity of the existing concrete. *It may be possible* in some conditions and only with a California licensed Engineer's review and approval to use any of the original foundation.

**Question: Can I rebuild in the same location?**

**Answer:** You will be able to rebuild in the same footprint as long as your structure was permitted. No increase in square footage or any change of use of buildings will be permitted under the CalFire SRA fire safe regulations currently in effect for wildfire rebuilds

**Question: What will Permit fees be?**

**Answer:** The permit fee for a new dwelling is calculated at \$2.42 per square foot plus a planning fee of \$59 and applicable state fees. This is only for a general estimate, for a more detailed estimate contact the Building Department at 530-283-7011, select 1 for Building, and then select 2 for a Permit Technician.

**Question: Can I rebuild a permitted Ag building?**

**Answer:** You may rebuild an Ag building, but a no-fee permit will be required.

**Question: Can I rebuild an accessory structure prior to replacing a residence on a property**

**Answer:** You may rebuild a permitted accessory use structure in the same foot print.

**Question: When can I apply for a building permit?**

**Answer:** We may accept applications for reconstruction prior debris removal if there is an approved plan for debris removal in place. The permit *will not be issued until a final debris clearance is issued.*

**Question: Can I pull a temporary power permit to start cleaning up my property?**

**Answer:** No. Residents are advised not to disturb ash and debris due to safety hazards. There will be a State sponsored program for debris removal and potentially an alternative program for those who wish to hire a licensed contractor to clean their property however we will not be issuing electric service permits until the property is certified cleared of hazardous debris and there is an approved use for the power.

**Question: A portion of my house burnt. Can I apply and pull permits to do the require repairs?**

**Answer:** You can apply for permits at any time, but the issuance of the permit will be on hold until the property has been cleared of debris through on of the approved programs.

**Question: I had an active remodel/repair/addition permit. My house is now gone. Can I get a refund?**

**Answer:** You can submit a refund request to our office. A staff member will review your permit and will let you know if any funds are refundable.

**Question: I had an active building permit (under construction). Can I still build the house based on the previously approved plans?**

**Answer:** Yes, if you have an active building permit and the structure was destroyed, you may re-build the previously approved structure. Additional inspection fees may apply.

## **CAMPING AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCES**

**Question: Can I camp or stay in an RV on an unaffected property, and for how long?**

**Answer:** At this time, Camping is only allowed for a prescribed amount of days in specific zones. Contact the Planning Department for more specifics. There has not been any emergency ordinance put in place for modifications to current requirements due to the fire.

**Question: Can I stay in an RV on my affected property?**

**Answer:** Upon receipt of a final debris clearance, the use of a currently registered recreational vehicle without connection to approved power, an approved sewage disposal system, and an approved domestic water supply is only allowed for a prescribed amount of days in specific zones. Contact the Planning Department for more specifics. The use of an RV is allowed for 18 months only with an issued Building permit to construct a dwelling, connection to a sewage disposal system, well or water source both approved from the Environmental Health Department and connection to an electrical source approved and permitted by the Building Department.

**Question: Can I occupy an accessory structure on the same property if I lost my residence?**

**Answer:** Due to the presence of Hazardous Materials, it is not safe to occupy a fire-damaged property until all hazardous materials and debris are removed. Even after the debris has been removed, the accessory structure must meet the minimum California State Health and Safety Code requirements for human habitation.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Question:** How can I get further information?

**Answer:** Our staff is proud to serve our Plumas County community, and we are dedicated to assisting you in every way that we can. For further information and questions about permitting, please call our main line at (530) 283-7011; visit our office at 555 main Street, Quincy, weekdays 8am-5pm or visit our web page at <https://www.plumascounty.us/77/Building-Department>