



Plumas County Environmental Health

270 County Hospital Road, Ste. 127, Quincy CA 95971

Phone: (530) 283-6355 ~ Fax: (530) 283-6241

SEPTIC SYSTEM EVALUATIONS FOR REBUILDING AFTER A WILDFIRE

The use of private on-site sewage disposal system is the responsibility of the individual property owner to demonstrate the disposal system is working properly and is undamaged by fire or vehicle traffic.

As an owner of a private on-site sewage disposal system that may be damaged by wildfire or fire suppression vehicles, you may have concerns regarding these impacts to your septic system. On-site septic systems have most of their functional components below ground, and as such, could be resistant to fire damage; however, they may not be resistant to fire vehicle damage. In any case, it is important to have your sewage disposal system inspected for damage to ensure proper function and condition before re-use.

In order to connect a new structure, or to re-occupy an existing structure damaged by fire, the septic system must be evaluated by a qualified professional. A qualified professional is a CA Registered Civil Engineer, a CA Registered Environmental Health Specialist, a CA Registered Geologist, CA contractor with an "A", "C-36" or a "C-42" license and expertise in septic systems, or a CA licensed Septage Hauler with expertise in septic system evaluations.

Locations where a cesspool or a seepage pit serve as the sewage disposal system, will require the abandonment of the cesspool or seepage pit, and the installation of a new sewage disposal system that meets current standards.

Procedure:

Prior to conducting a septic system evaluation, please contact Plumas County Environmental Health to request a document search for septic system information that could assist in locating the system and identifying its capacity and construction. The qualified professional shall perform the site work to verify the septic system meets minimum public health standards, will adequately support intended uses, and shall document and submit their findings including, and not limited to, the following:

- Type of septic system (septic tank, gravel or graveless leach field, cesspool, seepage pit, etc.).
- Location of the septic system (accurate site map required).
- Capacity of the septic system based upon the soil absorption rate (perc rate) and the anticipated flows from the structure served.
- Performance of the septic system (qualitative flow test).
- Identification of a suitable 100% replacement area for the leachfield.
- All supporting records, photos, repair invoices, etc.

Please Note: After the parcel has been given clearance that states the fire debris is removed, in order to proceed with re-construction or building repair, a copy of the qualified professional's septic system evaluation, along with their recommendations, shall be submitted to Plumas County Environmental Health for approval prior to issuance of a building permit.

For additional information regarding septic system evaluations, or septic system permits for repairs or replacements, please contact Plumas County Environmental Health at (530) 283-6355.