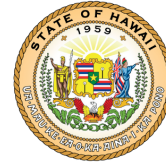


Re-Entry Guidance & Hazard Advisory for Temporary Visits



FOR MAUI RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) recognizes the community's desire to return to areas impacted by the wildfires. We believe that the opportunity to visit one's home site may help to allow closure and begin healing. However, some may understandably choose not to view the site. It is up to you whether to visit the impacted area.

Know Before You Go to the Impacted Area

- The impacted area may be hazardous with unstable structures, sharp metal objects, and ash with potentially toxic substances. However, with proper protective gear that is worn and removed correctly, it is possible to visit the impacted area safely.
- Children and pregnant people are at higher risk from the debris hazards and should NOT enter the impacted area or help with clean-up.
- We recommend bringing an extra change of clothes and shoes with you, so you can immediately change after your visit.
- Bring trash bags to put your used personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothes in after your visit.
- Bring water to drink as it may be very hot.
- Bring tissues or a small towel to wipe away tears and sweat.

Disclaimer:

The recommendations on this page are informational and general in nature. The contents herein are not intended to substitute for professional medical advice. It is the Hawai'i Department of Health's goal to provide information to assist the largest number of people based on current environmental conditions; however, for direction specific to you and any pre-existing medical conditions you may have, please contact a licensed medical professional. Enter at your own risk.

Reduce Exposure to Ash & Hazardous Materials

Debris and ash may include lead, asbestos, arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins or other hazardous substances. Dust, dirt, and soot can become airborne if disturbed, causing a risk of inhalation and exposure to these hazards. Exposure to these toxins may cause cancer, respiratory problems, and other health issues.

Protect Yourself with Proper PPE

Adults should use PPE including face masks, goggles, work gloves, full-body coveralls, socks, and shoes (including disposable shoe coverings) to avoid contact with ash. Cloth masks will not protect you from ash. Instead, DOH recommends wearing a tight-fitting respirator or mask - look for words NIOSH or N95 printed on the mask. Remember, no mask is effective unless it fits and is worn properly.

PPE is intended for single-use while temporarily visiting the impacted area. After use, the PPE should be put in a trash bag and disposed of with your regular trash. Washing your hands after disposing of the worn PPE contents is highly recommended.

Remember, you may encounter dangerous conditions or be exposed to toxic materials. Wear protective gear and minimize your time of exposure.

Questions?

State of Hawai'i Maui Disaster Relief Call Center: 808-727-1550
Open daily 6:00 am - 10:00 pm

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.



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Signs of Heat Stress

Please watch for symptoms of heat-related illness that may include headache, dizziness, nausea, fast heart rate, heavy sweating, or muscle cramps. Risk of heat-related illness may be greater when wearing PPE, so rest often and drink lots of water. Please remember to stay hydrated, take breaks often and seek shade when possible. If you experience any symptoms of heat-related illness, please stop your visit to the impacted area and seek medical attention.

Be Aware of Emotional Impacts

Re-entering the impacted areas where loved ones were lost along with homes, belongings and businesses can be very difficult emotionally. You may feel profound sadness, fear, anger, anxiety, panic, and other feelings that cause distress. These feelings may occur in the moment or afterwards. If you feel overwhelmed by these symptoms, please seek help from behavioral health specialists stationed in the area or at the Lāhainā Comprehensive Health Center, open 7 days a week from 9 am to 4 pm and can be reached at 808-495-5113. For after-hours mental health support, please call Hawai'i CARES toll free at 1-800-753-6879 or call/text 988.

Ash Cleanup

Avoid washing ash into storm drains. Do not use vacuums or leaf blowers that will push more ash and dust into the air. Please DO NOT EAT while in the impacted area, but remember to take breaks often and drink plenty of water. Take your breaks outside of your car or you may contaminate the interior of your car. Please keep your water bottles away from the ash and dust to avoid any ingestion.

Do Not Remove Debris

Removal of hazardous material from the impacted area will be coordinated by authorities.

Be Aware of Trees, Power Lines, or Other Hazards

Trees may be identified as hazards due to the fire. Even if power has not been restored to your neighborhood, downed power lines should be avoided. Unstable buildings and structures could collapse and cause injury. Nails and other pieces of sharp metal can cause injury - even through shoes. If you identify that an area is unsafe, leave and report the hazard to authorities.

After Your Visit to the Impacted Area

Once your visit to the impacted area is done, please dispose of all protective gear (masks, coveralls, goggles, gloves, booties) in a trash bag and dispose with your regular trash.

We recommend changing your clothes and shoes immediately after your visit to the impacted area. DOH also recommends washing the clothes separately from your regular laundry. It is also best practice to shower and wash your hair before being in contact with sensitive groups like keiki, pregnant people, people with asthma or COPD, and kupuna. If you are feeling unwell or have new health symptoms, please seek medical evaluation.

**For medical and behavioral health services contact:
Lāhainā Comprehensive Health Center: 808-495-5113**

Open 7 days a week from 9am - 4pm | health.hawaii.gov/mauiwildfires

PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

