



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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Tia Branton, REHS
Director

LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE TEHAMA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sections 101075 through 101095, confer upon Local Health Officers of the political subdivisions of the State of California, emergency powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that the Local Health Officer may declare a local emergency in his jurisdiction or any area affected by the threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes a Local Health Officer to declare a local health emergency whenever the Local Health Officer reasonably determines that hazardous waste or waste that may become hazardous waste, is an immediate threat to the public health; and

WHEREAS, Section 101075 of the California Health and Safety Code defines "Hazardous Waste" as waste or combination of wastes, that because of its quality, concentration, or physical chemical, or infectious characteristics may do any of the following: (1) cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2024, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in Tehama County as a result of the Park Fire, and made available State resources to assist in combating the wildfire; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2024 of Supervisors of the County of Tehama ratified the Emergency Proclamation by the Emergency Services Director and adopted a resolution proclaiming the local emergency status; and

WHEREAS, the County of Tehama will seek state and federal assistance for emergency mitigation of hazardous wastes and substances that may pose a threat to residents and the environment; and

WHEREAS, this wildfire continues to threaten people and destroy homes; and

WHEREAS, approximately 391,000 acres have burned, and the wildfire is eighteen percent contained; and

WHEREAS, homes and businesses have been destroyed, and thousands of dollars in damage to public and private infrastructure has occurred; and

WHEREAS, the County of Tehama Health Officer hereby finds as follows:

1. Debris and ash from structure fires can contain hazardous substances. For example, building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, insulation, or household items such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals can result in dangerous ash that contains asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazardous materials; and

2. Such waste is a threat to public health because it is hazardous waste and can cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness; or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed; and

3. Hazardous debris that remains after a wildfire can expose residents to toxic materials, improper transport and disposal of fire debris can create dangerous health impacts to workers removing the debris, such debris can threaten water supplies, and such harmful material can spread throughout the community at large; and

4. Persons with heart or lung disease, older adults, children (including teenagers), persons with diabetes, and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to the presence of such hazardous waste; and

5. The threat to public health creates the immediate need to facilitate assistance and undertake preventive measures to protect the health of people and the environment and to inform the affected public of any potential health issues associated with the hazardous waste created by the Park Fire, thereby warranting the declaration of the existence of a local health emergency; and

6. Regardless of cause, any commercial or domestic structure fires which have or will occur in Tehama County from the time the Park Fire began until the conclusion of the local health emergency will significantly contribute to the hazardous waste load; and

7. Assistance to private property owners and to others within Tehama County is needed for timely implementation of necessary preventative measures to protect public health and the environment; and

8. The scope and breadth of the Park Fire hazardous waste cleanup requires a rapid response due to the large area affected, the location of the fire, the number of structures damaged or destroyed and the imminent threat to public health; and

9. The potential beginning of the rainy season offers little time to mitigate further environmental contamination, including contamination of the watershed, and, therefore, time is of the essence in removing hazardous waste from property sites; and

10. The protection of the County's natural resources and watershed from fire related debris runoff needs to be addressed; and

11. Immediate action is necessary to mitigate the harm that could be caused to the public health and safety and to the environment from improper disturbance, removal, and/or disposal of hazardous waste, including but not limited to toxic, flammable, corrosive, and reactive materials from property sites located within the Park Fire area because such debris can create dangerous health impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TEHAMA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DECLARES as follows:

1. A local health emergency exists East of the I-5 Corridor including but not limited to; the communities known as Campbellville, Paynes Creek, Sky Ranch, Dales Station, Mineral, Mill Creek and Manton due to the hazardous waste and materials created by the Park Fire, and that such condition may be exacerbated by the ongoing fires and upcoming rainy season and will continue until the conclusion of this local health emergency.

2. During the existence of said local health emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Tehama County Local Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, including the provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, and any ordinances and resolutions approved by the Tehama County Board of Supervisors.

3. In connection with the foregoing declaration of local health emergency, the Tehama County Health Officer orders that immediate action be taken to remove the hazardous waste from property sites within the Park Fire area that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive and create an imminent threat to public health and safety.

4. A Local Health Emergency is declared in Tehama County commencing on this 1st day of August 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the local health emergency declared by the County's Health Officer on August 1, 2024, throughout Tehama County is hereby ratified. The Board of Supervisors shall review, at least every sixty days until the local health emergency is terminated, the need for continuing the local health emergency.

Dated: August 1, 2024



Dr. Timothy Peters
Public Health Officer
County of Tehama
Department of Environmental Health



Tehama County

Minutes Certification

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File Number: 24-1247

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY / PUBLIC HEALTH / ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - Health Services Executive Director Jayme Bottke and Environmental Health Director Tia Branton

- a) Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2, Article, 2, Sections 101075 through 101095, request ratification of the proclamation, issued by Tehama County Public Health Officer, proclaiming the existence of a local health emergency in Tehama County causing conditions of peril; and that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to California Emergency Management Agency.

Environmental Health Services Director Tia Branton spoke about ratifying the proclamation for the local fire emergency due to the hazardous debris and looking to seek federal and state assistance.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	William Moule
SECONDER:	Pati Nolen
AYES:	Supervisor Moule, Supervisor Carlson, Supervisor Nolen, Vice Chair Hansen and Chairperson Leach

I, JENNIFER VISE, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Tehama, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of an order adopted by said Board of Supervisors on 8/6/2024.

Attest: 
Deputy

August 13, 2024
Date Certified