

2026 Fire Demolition and Rebuilding FAQ

How should debris be handled?

Care should be taken when handling any materials from buildings that are damaged by the fire. Fire debris may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead, metals, plastics and chemicals that are harmful to everyone's health. Please wear gloves, long sleeves, long pants, closed-toe shoes and eye protection. Wear a properly fitted NIOSH-approved N95 or P100 respirator when exposure to ash or debris cannot be avoided. P100 or N100 masks are recommended for protection against potential asbestos exposure. Keep children and pets away from burned areas and ash. Don't disturb materials that may contain asbestos or lead. When you're not sure what a material contains, stop and get professional guidance. See Spokane County Solid Waste's website for information.

[Fire Debris Disposal | Spokane County, WA](#)

[City of Spokane Cleanup Efforts](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#): Household hazardous waste cleanup assistance

SRCAA's Special Notice to Property Owners Affected by the Spokane Complex Fires.

<https://spokanecleanair.org/property-owners-affected-by-the-Spokane-complex-fire/>

Spokane Regional Health District wildfire webpage. [After a Wildfire](#)

Do I need a demolition permit?

If you are not ready to rebuild and instead want to clean up the site or are wanting to rebuild in a different location, a separate demolition permit is **required**. However, Once requirements are met, permits can usually be issued immediately. The fee for demolition permits for wildfire affected properties in unincorporated Spokane County has been reduced to \$33.62. If you live in the City of Spokane, the fee has been reduced to \$35

A building permit to rebuild in the same footprint/location includes the scope of the demolition work. Spokane County accepts online permit applications within the unincorporated County via the [Spokane County, WA Public Portal](#). City of Spokane residents can apply for their permits by contacting the Development Services Center Permit Team at PermitTeam@spokanecity.org.

Demolition Permit Requirements Checklist:

- ❖ **Obtain an asbestos survey:** This is a Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) requirement to check for the presence of asbestos. This must be done by an AHERA-certified building inspector. (See SRCAA Spokane Complex <https://spokanecleanair.org/asbestos/spokanecomplexfire/>)
- ❖ **Provide notification to Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA)** by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI). This can be done online by the homeowner or the contractor who conducted the survey. *NOI fees are being waived, including those for emergency (fast-tracked) NOIs, for those affected by these fires.* <https://spokanecleanair.org/asbestos/asbestos-notifications-payment-portal/>
- ❖ **Provide a Site Plan:** Show lot lines, all structures on parcel and label structure(s) to be demolished, temporary erosion and sediment controls if near a body of water.
- ❖ Spokane County accepts online permit applications within the unincorporated County via the [Spokane County, WA Public Portal](#). City of Spokane accepts permits by the Development Services Center Permit Team at PermitTeam@spokanecity.org.

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Does the septic system or well need to be tested or replaced?

If your property has a septic system, ensure that the septic tank lids are still secured and in good condition to prevent a fall and drowning hazard on your property. The Spokane Regional Health District provides guidance on [wells and septic systems after a fire](#).

Contact them at (509) 324-1560, EXT #1 or liquidwaste@srhd.org

Can the surviving foundation be used to rebuild?

The foundation needs to be inspected and certified by a structural engineer to be kept for the rebuild. Neither the City nor County performs this type of inspection.

Can we have temporary housing on-site while rebuilding?

Yes, it is allowed with certain conditions and limitations. Please call the Spokane County Building and Planning or City of Spokane Development Services to discuss your specific temporary on-site housing situation. County and City Code currently regulates the types of allowable structures.

If you plan to connect your temporary housing to the current septic system, you will need to contact the Spokane Regional Health District’s Liquid Waste program at (509) 324-1560, ext. 1. More information is available here: <https://bit.ly/3L78cvA>.

How long will it take to get a permit to rebuild?

Both city and county permitting staff are committed to achieving a five-to-seven-day turnaround time for rebuilds that are substantially the same footprint and substantially in the same location. There may be complicating factors in some cases that take extra review time.

Questions:

Spokane County Building and Planning	509-477-3675
www.spokanecounty.gov/BP – M-Th 7:30 – 4:00, Fri 7:30- Noon.....	bphelp@spokanecounty.org
City of Spokane Development Services	509-625-6300
my.spokanecity.org -- M/T/TH/F: 8:00 – 5:00/W: 11:00 – 5:00.	PermitTeam@spokanecity.org
Spokane Regional Health District	509-324-1560
https://srhd.org	
Spokane Clean Air	509-477-4727
https://spokanecleanair.org/	
US EPA.....	888-509-0667
2026 Eastern Washington Wildfires Recovery US EPA	region10@epa.gov
American Red Cross	800-REDCROSS
Spokane County Washington Wildfires Financial Assistance Red Cross	

Resources:

Spokane Region Long Term Recovery Group	Spokane Complex Wildfire Response Resources
City of Spokane – Returning Home After Fires	Wildfire FAQs
U.S. EPA - Dealing with Debris and Damaged Buildings	Hazardous Materials Removal
FEMA - FEMA Homeowner’s Guide to Residential Smoke Damage	
Spokane Regional Health District - After a Wildfire	
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency - Asbestos	

Financial Assistance:

Washington Military Department State Cash Assistance
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services – Emergency Cash Assistance