



Calaveras County *Butte Fire Recovery*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUTTE FIRE RECOVERY-HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

PUBLIC CONCERNS

During the past week Tetra Tech Inc. and Butler Enterprises have been out in the Butte Fire Area identifying hazard trees on or adjacent to the County road Right-of-Way. These are trees that are at least 6 inches in diameter, 4.5 feet above the ground line and have burned to the point that the tree will not survive and if they were to fall would endanger the public health and safety. They are marked by an Arborist with a CC (Calaveras County) in white paint. The trees are also photographed and located using GPS coordinates which are documented to ensure the tree can be relocated in the future. The markings are used to visually identify hazard trees quickly. **The public should not remove, cover, repaint or use any other means to obscure the tree markings.**

Arborist and their crews will visually be locating trees on private property that need further evaluation. If a tree is identified is on private property that poses a potential hazard property owners will be notified by the County's Public Works Department with a request for a Right of entry (ROE) onto their property for further evaluation and possible removal. **Arborist and crews will not step on private property without the owner's permission.**

There will be no cost to property owners however, if they have insurance they must seek recovery from any benefits within their coverage. Property owners are only liable up to the amount of their insurance coverage. Under FEMA rules, **a property owner cannot receive duplicate benefits.** Those with no insurance are not required to reimburse the County.

Once there have been a significant number of trees identified, contractors will begin the removal process. Cost of this program was estimated to be between 8 and 10 million dollars last fall. This amount is expected to dramatically change as many of the damaged and destroyed trees have been removed by utility companies and others. Funding for the Tree Removal Program is through FEMA and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES).

Private Property owners that choose not to have their hazardous trees removed remain liable for damage caused by hazardous trees falling onto County Roads.

For more information, visit the Butte Fire Recovery website at www.butte.calaverasgov.us

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