

# Calaveras County Butte Fire Recovery

## Press Release – October 5, 2015 General Safety Tips for Butte Fire Recovery

#### **Driving In Fire/Debris Areas**

- > Use caution on narrow mountain roads.
- ➤ Watch for emergency response vehicles and utility workers/vehicle working along roadsides.
- ➤ Be aware; the fire may have damaged Stop/Yield signs and other drivers may not follow driving rules.
- > Watch for distracted drivers.

#### **Accessing Fire/Debris Areas**

- Scout the area you're working for hazards such as stump holes, ash pits, septic tank covers, and sharp materials in burned debris.
- ➤ Assess trees for fire damage and use caution while working around burned trees. This includes looking up into trees for loose or broken limbs. Falling limbs are a common hazard associated with burned trees.
- > Wear appropriate shoes and clothing for the conditions you're working in.
- ➤ Wear eye protection, hand protection and particulate masks while working in fire/debris areas. Masks and gloves are distributed for free at Town Hall meetings and by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department located at 891 Mt. Ranch Road, San Andreas.
- > Use caution while working on properties containing solar panels.

  Damaged solar panels may still be active and could arc, causing injury or death.
- ➤ Watch for rattlesnakes while working in fire/debris areas. Avoid approaching any snake.
- > Minimize exposure to sun.
- > Stay hydrated; drink plenty of water.
- > Appropriate clothing, headwear and sun block will help protect against sun-related injury/illness.
- > Watch for aggressive animals.

### **Mental Health Wellness**

> Stay mentally well and watch for signs of depression. For help, contact Mental Health Services at (209) 754-6525 or the toll free Crisis Line at 1-800-499-3030 open 24/7.