



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

511 Washington St., Ste.102 • The Dalles, OR 97058
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rowena Fire Recovery: Debris Removal Options Available During Interim Period

[August 8, 2025 – Rowena, Ore.] – As the Rowena Fire recovery effort continues in an interim period between Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations, Wasco County wants to ensure affected property owners understand their current options for debris removal services.

Current Status

The Debris Management Task Force is not able to provide Phase 2 debris removal services until adequate funding is secured. However, property owners who wish to move forward immediately have other options available.

Available Debris Removal Options

- 1. Insurance Coverage:** Property owners with insurance coverage are encouraged to contact their insurance company as a first step. Insurance providers can coordinate with approved contractors for comprehensive debris removal services.
- 2. Private Contractors:** Property owners may hire private contractors who specialize in fire debris cleanup. This option allows residents to move forward on their own timeline without waiting for Phase 2 funding approval.
- 3. Free Volunteer Debris Sifting Services:** Northwest Baptist Disaster Relief, a vetted National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) member, is offering free debris sifting and personal property recovery services with trained volunteers. This service is time-sensitive and available until August 11 – property owners should contact Dave Hillison, Region 3 Coordinator, by phone(503) 789-6952 or by email at dahill1@bctonline.com to schedule an appointment.

Critical Safety Information

Property owners accessing their sites during the interim period are strongly encouraged to wear proper protective equipment, including sturdy shoes, eye goggles, heavy-duty work gloves and an N95 mask when inspecting damage. Tyvek coveralls and N95 masks are available for pickup at:



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- **North Central Public Health District:** 419 E 7th St, The Dalles (during normal business hours)
- **Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue:** 1400 W 8th St, The Dalles (during normal business hours)

Additional Cleanup Resources:

The Debris Management Task Force is providing technical assistance and coordinating with subject matter experts to support safe debris management. Guidance on proper cleanup procedures and disposal of fire debris can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq>

Local recovery and safety resources are also available through [Wasco County Emergency Management Long-term Recovery page](#).

Residents are encouraged to sign up for [Wasco County Citizen Alert](#) for the latest updates on recovery, road access, and support services.

For more information on state-led wildfire recovery and preparedness efforts, visit: wildfire.oregon.gov

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