EMERGENCY ORDER OF THE SONOMA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
CONCERNING RE-ENTRY AND PROHIBITING THE ENDANGERMENT
OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE UNSAFE REMOVAL,
TRANSPORT, AND DISPOSAL OF FIRE DEBRIS

WHEREAS the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to
public health and the environment exists in the aftermath of a major wildfire
disaster. Debris and ash from residential structure fires contain hazardous
substances and the health effects of hazardous substances releases after a wildfire
are well-documented.

WHEREAS the combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing
tiles, and insulation result in dangerous ash that may contain asbestos, heavy
metals, and other hazardous materials. Household hazardous waste such as paint,
gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals
may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned in the fire,
also producing hazardous materials.

WHEREAS exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic
health effects, and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts.
Uncontrolled hazardous materials and debris pose significant threats to public
health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water
supplies. Improper handling can expose workers to toxic materials, and improper
transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout
the community.

WHEREAS the Sonoma County Health Officer has proclaimed a local
health emergency due to the hazardous conditions.

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors has ratified the
proclamation of a local emergency due to the Kincade Fire, exacerbated by the
extreme fire danger created by successive wind events and the corresponding de-
energization in the Sonoma County operational area.

WHEREAS areas that have been closed to reentry by residents and the
public for safety reasons will be opened in the near future.

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Health Officer finds that:
a. The Kincade Fire has created hazardous waste conditions in Sonoma County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste/materials and structural debris resulting from the destruction of a large number of structures.

b. This hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless its removal and disposal is performed in a manner that will protect the public health and safety.

WHEREAS Health and Safety Code section 101040 authorizes the Health Officer to require protective measures in the context of a local emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, the Sonoma County Health Officer ORDERS that:

1. Property owners and the community should not enter the burn footprint of structures without Personal Protective Equipment.

2. Until the enactment of additional requirements to address the Kincade Fire disaster clean up, no cleanup activities of burned structures shall commence without the written authorization of the County of Sonoma's Department of Health Services, Environmental Health.

3. Until the enactment of additional requirements to address the Kincade Fire disaster clean up, no debris bins shall be provided to property owners for the purposes of the removal of fire debris without the written authorization of the County of Sonoma.

SIGNED AND SUBSCRIBED AT  a.m this 1st day of November 2019.

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Sonoma County Health Officer