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**NEWS RELEASE**

**CALAVERAS COUNTY**

CONTACT: <http://butte.calaverasgov.us> RELEASE DATE: September 17, 2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CALAVERAS COUNTY BUTTE FIRE**

As you begin to go home and assess your residences and property, you are reminded to be aware of any and all changes in fire conditions.

If you see trees on a highway, please call Cal-Trans at 209-948-7543.

If you see trees on a County road, please call Public Works at 209-754-6402.

If you see any hazardous material or waste, please call Environmental Health at 209-754-6399.

If you see any fire danger or criminal activity, please call 911.

If you need to speak to a grief counselor, please call our local 24 hour mental health crisis line at (800) 499-3030.

**LOCAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (CLAC)** The Calaveras Local Assistance Center (CLAC) will be open tomorrow September 18, 2015 from noon to 7:00 pm at Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road in San Andreas in the old court building. The CLAC is a centralized location where County, State and Local agencies will provide assistance and guidance to residents who have been impacted by the fire. Additional dates of operation include Saturday, Sunday and Monday, September 20-22 from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

**SHERIFF**: Emergency Personnel are once again saddened to announce that yesterday on 09/16/15 at approx. 1100 hours, the Calaveras County Sheriff’s Office and Historical Human Remains Detection K9 teams from the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services Law Enforcement Branch recovered a second deceased victim. The victim was located in the rural Mountain Ranch area. The victim was located in the burn perimeter and the death appears to be a result from the Butte Fire. The identity of the victim is unknown and under investigation. The remains will be sent to a Forensic Pathologist for identification.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS FOR PROPERTY CLEANUP**: The Calaveras County Environmental Health and Public Works Departments are working cooperatively with Cal Recycle and other State partners in a program to facilitate property owners in the safe removal and handling of burn debris and ash. This program is funded and coordinated with property owners.

Ash and burn debris contain hazardous material and wastes, which may include asbestos, heavy metals, by-products or plastic combustion and various other chemicals. When not properly handled, this ash can impact people at the point of handling and during transportation potentially impacting the general public.

As a result of the Proclamation by the Health Officer of the existence of hazardous waste and public health hazards, no ash or debris can be removed prior to the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) performing an onsite inspection of properties. A Right of Entry form must be signed by property owners to allow assessment of personnel access to property. Right of Entry forms will be available at the Calaveras Local Assistance Center and on the County website. If you have any questions regarding safe property clean up, please contact: EHD at (209) 754-6399.

Under direction of Calaveras County Public Works, Cal-Waste has deployed food waste bins in the following locations:

**Mokelumne Hill**

2-Wendells

2-Hwy 26 near Italian Vista Rd

**Mountain Ranch**

1 - Senders Market

1 - Corner of Whiskey Slide Rd & Mountain Ranch Rd at the Park Entrance

**Railroad Flat**

1- Corner of Mountain Ranch Rd & Sheep Ranch Rd.

1 -Railroad Flat General Store

1-Corner of Swiss Ranch Rd. & Railroad Flat Rd.

**San Andreas**

1- Corner of Calaveritas Rd & Calaveritas St.

*Calls for bin locations and pickup can be directed to Cal-Waste at 209-795-1352*

**CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT** The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) has opened up three emergency fill stations to county residents who have lost access to their water source. Potable water will be provided free of charge on a temporary basis at the following locations:

* West Point Fire Station, 195 Spink Road, West Point
* Ebbetts Pass Fire Station, 1037 Blagen Road, Arnold
* Jenny Lind Water Treatment Plant, 3561 Silver Rapids Road, Valley Springs

The CCWD Sheep Ranch Water System is back in operation but due to the fire, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water in conjunction with the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, and Calaveras County Water District are advising residents of Sheep Ranch, served by the Calaveras County Water District, Sheep Ranch Water System #0510004 to use boiled tap water or bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes as a safety precaution. Bottled water can be picked up at the Sheep Ranch Fire Department.

***DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.*** *Bring all water to a boil,* ***let it boil for one (1) minute,*** *and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking and food preparation* ***until further notice****. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water and it is the preferred method to assure that the water is safe to drink.*

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**: All schools in Calaveras County are set to reopen on Monday, September 21, 2015 with the exception of West Point and Rail Road Flat, which will tentatively open on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

**CALAVERAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**  The following numbers are provided for needs associated with Health and Human Services:

Human Services – Public Assistance: 754-6440

Public Health Services: 754-6460

Behavioral Health Services – Mental Health Program: 754-6525

Behavioral Health Services – Substance Abuse Program: 754-6555

Behavioral Health Services 24 Hour Crisis Line: 754-3239 or (800) 499-3030

**CAL FIRE**: The Butte Fire Information Line has been expanded to include the Butte Fire Recovery Information Line. The Fire Information and Fire Recovery Lines will serve as a central information center for residents and those affected by the Butte Fire. For any questions regarding the Butte Fire or recovery efforts, please call: (209) 822-3159

The fire will continue to produce smoke within the perimeter of the fire footprint for many days, as pockets of unburned vegetation smolder and burn. However, if you see a fire that appears threatening, you should not hesitate to call 911 and report it.

**DONATIONS**: Have you or are you thinking about making a donation? If so, please use the below contact information:

**Calaveras Community Foundation**:

***Designate your donation to: Disaster Relief Fund (“DRF”)***

Tax ID # 68-0472056

***Send check to:***

PO Box 1436, Angels Camp, 95222

OR Call: 209-736-1845

OR pay on-line at: <http://calaverascommunityfoundation.org/news-events/calaveras-community-foundation-disaster-relief/>

**Salvation Army Donations to the Calaveras Service Unit**:

Tax ID # 94-1170408

***Send check to*:**

Calaveras Health & Human Services

509 E St Charles St., San Andreas, CA 95249

OR Call: Kathy Houle 209-754-6851

**Resource Connection/Food Bank**:

Tax ID # 94-2705790

***Send check to:***

PO Box 919, San Andreas, CA 95249

OR Call: 209-754-1257

**Red Cross-Gold County Region**

***Designate your donation to: California Wildfires***

Tax ID # 53-0196605

***Send check to:***

1565 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815

OR Call: 916-993-7080

**Common Ground Senior Services**

Tax ID # 68-0463039

***Send check to:***

229 New York Ranch Road

Jackson, CA 95642

OR Call: 209-223-3015

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