



To: Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN) Participants  
Date: October 23, 2007

### **Local Fires and Safe Cleanup of Fire Ash and Debris**

The local fires have resulted in large volumes of fire ash and debris throughout San Diego County. When mandatory evacuations are lifted, residents who return to their effected homes and neighborhoods should use caution when in contact with these materials.

Any ash will contain small amounts of carcinogenic material. While ash generated from forest fires is considered relatively nontoxic (similar to ash found in a fireplace), ash and debris found inside burned structures may contain more toxic substances because of many synthetic and other unknown materials present in these buildings. Older buildings may be of particular concern and present potential exposure to materials such as asbestos and lead.

The California EPA has developed a list of recommendations for persons intending to have contact with fire-generated ash and debris. These recommendations can be found in the News section of the EMAN Home page, or at the following website: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Disaster/Fire2003/FireAsh.pdf>

### **Local Fire Resources and Updates**

A guide for public health officials related to wildfire smoke has been posted in the News section of the EMAN Home page, and is also available at the following website: [http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/risk\\_assess/wildfire.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/air/risk_assess/wildfire.html)

For more information about fire safety issues, visit the CDC website: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/>.

For more information about the status of Southern California wildfires, visit <http://www.calfires.com>.

For more information about the status of San Diego County wildfires, visit <http://www.sdcountyemergency.com/>.

Thank you for your continued participation.

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*EMAN Alerts are intended for the use of public health, medical and laboratory professionals in San Diego County, should be considered confidential and **NOT BE DISTRIBUTED** further. An online EMAN application is available at the EMAN website ([www.emansandiego.com](http://www.emansandiego.com)) for appropriate and interested individuals. If you are not an approved EMAN subscriber and have received this communication in error, please reply to this message immediately and then delete it.*