

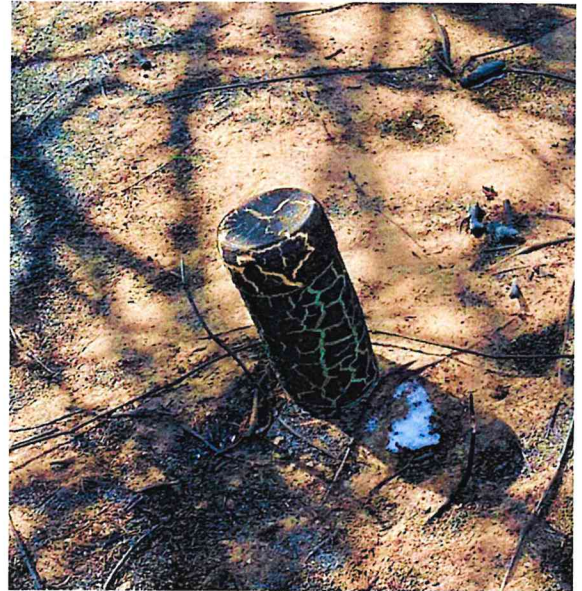
Septic Systems and Lagoons After a Fire

Septic systems - You may have some concerns about fire related impacts to your septic system. Most of their functional components of your septic system are below ground and are typically more resistant to fire damage. However, damage to your septic system may have occurred due to high heat exposure from flames, smoke, ash, power outages or equipment failure. Heavy fire-fighting equipment and vehicles on property may also damage underground septic systems. When returning to your property, inspect the area where your septic system is located for signs of damage from fire and traffic from fire-fighting operations.

Be aware of septic tank and lateral field location as crews remove fire debris from the property. The Environmental section may have a wastewater diagram or GPS points that describe the wastewater location. Caution tape and small posts could be set up to protect the septic system area.

The system may have been impacted if you observe:

- * Plastic piping above ground has melted.
- * Evidence of vehicle traffic in the area of the system.
- * The raised system was in the direct line of fire (i.e. grass on top is scorched).
- * There is damage in the area where the pipes enter the home.
- * Electrical lines and air compressors for enhanced system may also have been melted or ruined by the fire. Please contact a local wastewater contractor for evaluation.



Repairs to melted lids, risers, and inspection ports do not require a permit to repair or replace. If a septic system has suffered damage from heavy equipment, it needs to be evaluated by a licensed wastewater contractor to determine the extent of the damage. If a system has been damaged and needs replacement, please contact the Environmental Section to start the permit process.

Lagoons - Fire damage can also occur to a lagoon. Above ground fencing around the lagoon can be damaged. Biological functions of the lagoon should resume within a few weeks to a few months of use.

When assessing your lagoon look for the following:

- * Wooden post burnt or gone from fire.
- * Damage to cleanouts along the sewer line path from the house to the lagoon.
- * Damage to the berm from heavy traffic.
- * Burnt or scorched grass on berms.

Repairs or placement of posts, fencing, gates, cleanouts, and patches to the berms do not require a permit. If significant damage has occurred to the lagoon's berm or damage has occurred to the lagoon's clay or bentonite liner, please consult with a wastewater contractor to determine the extent of the damage.

More information and or diagrams please contact the Environmental Section 620-694-2900.



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