

# PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

## BY THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

WHEREAS, the California Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2 commencing with Section 101075 confers upon Local Health Officers of the political subdivision of this state emergency powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that the local health officer may declare a local emergency in the jurisdiction or any area thereof affected by the threat to the public health; and

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code empowers the Local Health Officer to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local health emergency when the Local Health Officer reasonably determines that the waste is a hazardous waste or medical waste, or that it may become a hazardous waste or medical, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven days and reaffirmation every fourteen days thereafter until such health emergency is terminated; and

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 substances and debris pose significant threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies; and improper handling can expose workers to toxic materials, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community; and

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

WHEREAS, fire, smoke, and extreme heat is causing risk to the public's health, especially vulnerable people, who have medical conditions (such as asthma, COPD, cardiac disease), are elderly/frail, and those who are homeless and do not have indoor shelter; and

WHEREAS, evacuations and further displacement of people, including those with special needs will increase the surge in the use of healthcare for our two small hospitals with open bed capacity of only 2-3 currently; and

WHEREAS, hazardous air quality from smoke, disruption of serpentine soils, and mercury mines create exposure to harmful toxins and particulates; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2018, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency existed in Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Health Officer does hereby find:

1. That conditions resulting from the Pawnee Fire in Lake County, which began on June 23, 2018 have created and are continuing to create debris which may be or which may become hazardous waste and a threat to public health; and
2. That the threat to public health creates the immediate need to facilitate assistance and undertake preventive measures to protect the health of people and the environment and to inform the affected public of any potential health issues associated with the debris created by the Pawnee Fire, thereby necessitating the proclamation of the existence of a local health emergency.
3. That assistance to private property owners and to the County is needed for timely implementation of necessary preventive measures to protect public health and the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IS HEREBY DECLARED** in Lake County in those areas of the county affected by the Pawnee Fire and concurrent fires.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Local Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, including the provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, and by any ordinances and resolutions of the County approved by the Board of Supervisors.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that immediate action may be taken to remove hazardous wastes that are toxic, flammable, corrosive or reactive from developed property sites that have been destroyed or severely damaged by the Pawnee Fire because of the imminent and substantial threat such wastes pose to public health and safety.

  
Sara Goldgraben, MD, MPH, MBA  
Health Officer

Dated: 6/26/18

Confirmed this 26th day of June 2018 by the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

**AYES:** Supervisors Simon, Smith, Scott, Brown and Steele

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:** None

**ATTEST: CAROL J. HUCHINGSON**  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 

Deputy

**COUNTY OF LAKE**

  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**ANITA L. GRANT**  
County Counsel

By: 

Deputy

