



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration Clinic Services Public Health
Behavioral Health Emergency Medical Services Public Administrator/Public Guardian
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Nationally Accredited for Providing Quality Health Services

A DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR THE RIVER FIRE INCIDENT

WHEREAS commencing on August 16, 2020, the River, Dolan and Carmel wildfires swept through areas of unincorporated Monterey County (collectively, the "Monterey County Fires"), and have caused severe damage to areas within Monterey County, including but not limited to the Sierra De Salinas range, Carmel Valley and areas of Cachagua and Jamesburg, and Big Sur Ventana Wilderness; and

WHEREAS as of September 2, 2020, the Monterey County Fires have affected 86,000 acres, are still not contained, and continue to burn causing a threat to nearby residents and most of the County due to airborne fire products and contaminants; and

WHEREAS the Monterey County Fires have caused structural damage or destruction to hundreds of private buildings; and

WHEREAS the destruction of private buildings has resulted in the accumulation of ash debris, much of which has been determined to be contaminated with heavy metals and/or asbestos; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of the accumulation of this contaminated debris as a result of this wildfire, by reason of the magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single local government and will require the combined forces of a mutual aid region, regions and state to abate; and

WHEREAS I, Dr. Edward Moreno, am the Health Officer of the County of Monterey; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code, I find that conditions of exposure to hazardous waste and an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public exist in the areas burned by the Monterey County Fires; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, Monterey County needs other political subdivisions and State agencies to provide mutual aid, including personnel, equipment and other available resources; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors' next regular meetings are scheduled for September 15, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Edward Moreno, Health Officer of the County of Monterey, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

and statute, particularly California Health & Safety Code sections 101080 and 101085, HEREBY DECLARE A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY to exist in the affected areas of the County of Monterey due to the Monterey County Fires.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, in accordance with the powers and duties of the local health officer vested by sections 101085 and 101310 of the California Health and Safety Code, that all assisting state agencies, in particular the State Department of Toxics Substance Control, Office of Emergencies Services, the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and all appropriate County agencies, in particular the Environmental Health Bureau of the Monterey County Health Department, utilize and employ personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Incident Commanders for the Monterey County Fires Incidents.

IT IS FURTHER HEREBY ORDERED that all persons are to heed the directions of emergency officials regarding this emergency in order to protect their health and safety. This may include temporary or extended evacuations of identified dwelling units during hazardous waste demolition and removal efforts, further and/or expanded access restrictions on property owners and the public into areas identified to be contaminated, and the removal of contaminants and debris of those parcels of which an agreement as to the remediation efforts has not been determined or identified by the respective property owners.

I FURTHER DIRECT that pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 101080, the local health emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven days unless it has been ratified by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. If the emergency has not been ratified within seven days by the Board of Supervisors, I may issue a new declaration of a local health emergency. If ratified by the Board of Supervisors, section 101080 requires the Board of Supervisors to review, at least every 30 days until the local health emergency is terminated, the need for continuing the local health emergency and shall proclaim the termination of the local health emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant the termination.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible this declaration be filed with the Board of Supervisors and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this declaration.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my signature to be affixed this third day of September 2020.



Edward Moreno, MD, MPH
Health Officer of the County of Monterey