

**PROCLAMATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH
EMERGENCY BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HEALTH OFFICER**

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code, Division 101, Part 3, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sections 101075 through 101095, confer upon local health officers of the political subdivisions of the State of California, 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 affected by the treat 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 waste, 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, the Los Angeles County Health Officer hereby finds, as follows:

1. Conditions of the wildfires in December 2017, have created and are continuing to create debris which may be or become hazardous waste and a threat to public health; and
2. 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 hazardous waste created by the 2017 wildfires, thereby necessitating the proclamation of a local health emergency; and
3. Regardless of cause, any commercial or domestic structure fires which have or will occur in Los Angeles County from the time the 2017 wildfires began until the conclusion of the local health emergency will significantly contribute to the hazardous material load; and
4. Assistance to private property owners and to others within Los Angeles County is needed for timely implementation of necessary preventive measures to protect public health and the environment; and
5. The scope and breadth of the 2017 wildfires, including but not limited to the many commercial and residential structures that have been decimated creates an imminent threat to public health, and the presence of apparent hazardous waste and materials require a rapid response to be safely removed from the sites of burned structures; and
6. Children are particularly vulnerable to the presence of such dangerous materials and hazardous waste, and the risk to children becomes more immediate as families are returned to their properties; and
7. The potential advent of the rainy season offers little time to mitigate further environmental contamination, including contamination of the watershed, and, therefore, time is of the essence in removing hazardous waste and materials from property sites; and

8. Immediate action is necessary to remove hazardous waste, including but not limited to toxic, flammable, corrosive, and reactive materials from property sites within the 2017 wildfires area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER
DECLARES AND PROCLAIMS, as follows:**

1. A local health emergency exists throughout all public jurisdictions within Los Angeles County due to the hazardous waste and materials created by the 2017 wildfires, and that such condition may be exacerbated by the ongoing fires and will continue until the conclusion of this local health emergency.

2. During the existence of said local health emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Los Angeles County Health Officer or deputies shall be those prescribed by State law, including the provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, and any ordinances and resolutions approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

3. In connection with the foregoing proclamation and order of a local health emergency, the Los Angeles County Health Officer orders that immediate action be taken to remove hazardous waste and materials from property sites within the 2017 wildfires area that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, or reactive and create an imminent threat to public health and safety.

4. This proclamation of local health emergency shall be reviewed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors within seven days and if not confirmed and ratified by the Board of Supervisors it shall expire on the seventh day, or such earlier date as specified by the Board of Supervisors.

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Los Angeles County Health
Officer

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