



THE ROAD TO DISPOSAL

Spokane Complex Wildfire Response

Household Hazardous Material (HHM) Removal

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), at the request of and with assistance from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), is assessing and removing household hazardous materials (HHM) from properties affected by the Spokane Complex Fires. These materials include paints, batteries, pesticides and oils that must be removed before debris removal can start.

HHM Collection

Collection of HHM

- EPA-led teams survey damaged properties.
- A second team removes hazardous materials.
- Once complete, EPA places a sign on your property and updates the parcel mapping website.
- Collected HHM is sorted, double-bagged, and transported to a staging area.



Crews contain batteries in lined drums for safe transport to staging areas.



HHM is double-bagged and labeled.

Collection of Lithium-ion Batteries

- EPA inspects batteries from electric vehicles and power walls, including testing by a certified electrician.
- EPA carefully removes batteries.
- Once batteries are removed, crews leave markings with paint.

HHM Staging

At the Staging Area

- Bagged materials are sorted by type into 55-gallon drums or boxes.
- Drums and boxes are loaded onto trucks and sent off-site to the correct disposal facility.

Lithium-ion Battery Processing

- Batteries are de-energized as needed.
- Batteries are flattened or ground in a contained area.



HHM is sorted into similar materials streams at staging areas.

HHM Disposal

HHM and Lithium-ion Disposal

- After sorting and processing, EPA safely packages and transports these items off-site in Department of Transportation (DOT) approved containers to final disposal facilities.



Semi-truck packed with e-waste for off-site disposal.



FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT HHM REMOVAL WORK:

- epa.gov/washington-wildfires
- 1-888-509-0667
- region10@epa.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH QUESTIONS?

Visit the Spokane Regional Health District website at srhd.org or 509.324.1500



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