

# Maui Wildfire Recovery

Phase 1 Completion

November 30, 2023



***Maui gives so much to the world. As guests we are honored to give our support back.***

The Federal Emergency Management Agency tasked EPA to survey, remove, and dispose of hazardous materials from properties affected by the wildfires on Maui. This is referred to as Phase 1.

EPA has completed its Phase 1 mission assignment, this is a major step towards debris removal and the rebuilding of Lāhainā and upcountry communities.

**Phase 1 - EPA Hazardous Material Removal**

**Phase 2 - Army Corps Debris Removal**

EPA and its contractors, half of whom were local hires, with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, and in coordination with the County of Maui and Hawai'i Department of Health have accomplished the following:

***1. Surveyed, removed, and disposed of surface level household hazardous materials in fire impacted areas.***

EPA completed hazardous material removal from 1,374 residential and 74 commercial properties. Hazardous materials collected in Phase 1 were thoroughly processed and packaged at EPA's staging area. Thirteen shipping containers containing hazardous materials have been shipped off Maui for safe disposal.

EPA deferred 73 residential and 100 commercial properties to the Army Corps of Engineers for hazardous material removal because of physical conditions that prevented safe access to the properties. For these properties, residents will need to coordinate with the County of Maui and Army Corps to access their properties once hazardous conditions are addressed and hazardous materials are removed.



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**2. Removal and disposal of lithium-ion and high voltage batteries from power walls, electric, and hybrid vehicles affected by the Maui Wildfires.**

EPA removed batteries from 94 electric and hybrid vehicles, and 274 power walls. EPA developed cutting-edge procedures to de-energize and decommission the batteries so they could be safely shipped off Maui. Two shipping containers containing more than 30 tons of decommissioned battery material have been shipped off Maui for safe recycling.



**3. Initial and re-application of a soil stabilizer on the ash footprint of burned structures.**

EPA is applying Soiltac® to protect people's health and the environment from harmful contaminants found in the ash. Soiltac® is being re-applied where it has been disturbed. Army Corps will remove the Soiltac® along with other debris during Phase 2.

Soiltac® is water-based and binds ash and debris together. The product forms a transparent, waterproof crust on the surface of burned material and debris to prevent the spread of hazardous materials off site.



Although EPA removed most of the hazardous materials, some items may remain. If you are visiting your property during re-entry, please proceed with caution. Scan QR code for video on general hazards you may encounter.



**Cultural Sensitivity Program:**

To observe and protect important cultural resources and practices on Maui throughout this response, EPA developed and implemented a cultural sensitivity program. The program included hiring more than 20 cultural monitors to oversee work in the field; mandatory cultural sensitivity training for all EPA staff, contractors, and U.S. Coast Guard support personnel; and cultural advising from local leadership to inform EPA's community involvement program. Each day, before and after work in the burn zones, a puale, or Hawaiian prayer and blessing, was held with field crews. This cultural sensitivity program was vital to this response and will be continued during the next phase of Recovery.

*While EPA has completed its hazardous material removal emergency response mission assignment, Soiltac® and our other work will continue. EPA is committed to providing resources to assist with Maui's long-term recovery efforts including water infrastructure and sustainable recovery.*

*If you have questions regarding Phase 2, contact the Army Corps of Engineers:*

Website: <https://www.poh.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Response/Hawaii-Wildfires/>

Phone: 877-214-9117