



GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 21, 2017

Thomas Fire Ash Management Plan

After one of the largest fire events in the history of the State of California settles down, the Goleta Union School District (GUSD) maintenance and custodial staff are committed to cleaning up of our sites, inside and out, to ensure a clean and healthy environment for the return of students and staff to the classrooms in January 2018. Next week, we will complete our post-wildfire clean up that will include the task of managing ash clean up from outside our school and district facilities as well as cleaning inside spaces.

Objectives:

- To provide a plan of cleanup, which if followed, will ensure that all of the GUSD school sites will be as safe as possible for the return of staff and students in January.
- To provide maintenance and custodial staff with guidelines for safe cleanup procedures.
- To communicate to our community the details of our cleanup efforts
- To develop a plan to protect the health/welfare and safety, atmosphere, streams, storm drain systems, ground water, and all bodies of water from improper cleanup and disposal.

The GUSD plan is based on guidelines provided by the County of Santa Barbara. Please view and share the linked document provided by Santa Barbara County on their website at <http://countyofsb.org/asset.c/3496>. We have also been in close contact with the County of Santa Barbara Public Health Department throughout the event to ensure proper handling of what is a significant health issue throughout Santa Barbara County. According to the Public Health Department, the ash we are dealing with is "organic" that comes from the burning of trees and brush as opposed to "toxic" ash that comes from burning structures.

Best Practices:

- **Control:** During cleanup limit the amount of ash that is re-suspended into the air
- **Contain:** Gently sweep indoor and outdoor hard surfaces followed by wet mopping
- **Capture:** Organic ash can be diverted to organic areas but should still avoid storm drains for disposal. Ash can also be swept up, bagged, and disposed of in the trash.

Clean Up Plan

- MOT staff will thoroughly clean/sweep/rinse all outside surfaces including walkways between buildings, lunch areas, planters, building surfaces, outside window surfaces and poles, play equipment. Surfaces will be wiped down and then rinsed to ensure no ash residue is left behind.
 - All staff cleaning up ash to use protective tight fitting N95 respirator masks, log sleeved shirts and long pants while cleaning ash.
 - Avoid skin contact with ash
 - Avoid getting ash into the air as much as possible – Use of blowers is prohibited.
- Playing fields and all grass areas will be watered repeatedly to ensure ash is soaked into soil. Bark on playgrounds will be rinsed and turned over. Sand boxes will be thoroughly rototilled and turned over and not opened for use until all ash has been contained.
- Industrial street sweeping contractor will clean parking lots, fire roads, and playgrounds. Care will be taken to not just churn up ash but to lightly rinse and vacuum up the ash particles which will be removed from the site.
- Maintenance department will thoroughly clean all HVAC/central air units, flush ash, and replace all filters. We have purchased Superior Allergen Air Filters that will allow for a higher level of filtered air flowing to our classrooms. This will also allow for heaters to be used safely when students return.
- Maintenance crews of three will be dispatched to each elementary site first, when finished, they will proceed to an assigned secondary site to offer assistance to site staff cleaning exterior areas on campus.
- School busses will be meticulously cleaned inside and out.
- Custodial staff at each site will go through and clean all interior surfaces using water and towels. Hard floor surfaces will be swept. Vacuum cleaners will be equipped with HEPA filters to properly filter out fine ash particles while

vacuuming. Ash is to be bagged up and put in the trash.

Thank you in advance for your efforts and cooperation.

Other links to post-fire cleanup and safety:

County of Santa Barbara Fire Cleanup:

<http://countyofsb.org/cleanup.sbc>

CA Wildfires Recovery Information:

<http://wildfirerecovery.org/services/health-information>

CA Air Resources Board Safe Cleanup of Ash

<https://www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/toolkit/emerg-response/safe-cleanup-fire-ash.pdf>