



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health Service

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SEPTIC, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND WELLS

My home was on a lot less than one-acre in size, which is less than required for a new septic system in my area. Will I be allowed to repair or replace my septic system for my rebuilt residence?

Parcel under 1 acre may be rebuilt if the house was permitted or recognized as existing prior to County records. There may be environmental challenges which Environmental Health (EH) Land Use Team will assist you when reviewing your project.

My cleanout pipes to the septic tank are melted, do I need a permit to repair?

You do not need a permit for septic cleanout or leachfield riser pipes that have melted. The pipes should be replaced to mark the location of your leachfield.

Will I be allowed to reuse my existing septic system to rebuild my home? Am I required to install an enhanced treatment (ET) or alternative septic system?

If your septic system meets current standards based on the EH records, you will be able to reuse your existing septic system. Many septic systems can be retrofitted with an enhanced treatment system. Existing enhanced treatment systems have many parts above grade. They will need to be assessed for fire damage and necessary repairs completed prior to use. Contact your service provider for an assessment.

I was told I need to have an “Environmental Health Clearance” form prior to applying for a building permit. What is required to obtain “Environmental Health Clearance”?

Complete the Environmental Health Clearance form. As an owner, you may complete the form using the EH Public Records. A property owner, your architect, designer or a qualified professional may complete the form. Submit to EH Land Use for approval.

I would like to park an RV on my property for temporary housing while I work on my reconstruction plans, but I was told I need clearance from Environmental Health confirming that I have a functioning septic system and that my debris removal has been completed. How do I obtain these clearances?

The applicant should fill out the EH Temporary Occupancy Clearance Form. To assist you in completing the form, access the EH public record or submit a septic system pumpers report with the completed EH Temporary Occupancy Clearance Form. A debris assessment team will evaluate your property and take soil samples. If needed, a debris clearance will be issued if safe to proceed.

My septic consultant said my system will need to be replaced to serve my rebuilt home. How do I get a permit for the new system?

A Qualified Professional may assist you in completing the Sewage Disposal Application and designing your septic system.

My well head is melted, do I need a permit to repair?

The existing well must be assessed by a licensed well contractor. The well pad may be cracked and the upper portion of the well melted. Do not attempt to retrofit or add above ground waterlines to the lower part of your well as this will affect the water quality and contaminate the aquifer. Your well contractor should complete an assessment and submit a report to the County.

The community water and wastewater systems in my neighborhood were rendered inoperable in the fire. Will I be able to temporarily occupy my property? When will I be able to move back in permanently?

Many properties may not have water or septic available after the fires. Occupying a property without water and septic will create a public health hazard and you should not occupy the property. Once you have an approved EH Temporary Clearance and potable water, you may relocate temporarily to your property.

SAMPLE PLOT PLAN

