INFORMATION BULLETIN / PUBLIC - BUILDING CODE
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DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY THE 2025 WILDFIRES

Purpose:
To streamline and expedite the rebuilding process for structures that were destroyed or significantly damaged by the Wildfires in 2025. The Mayor's Emergency Executive Order No. 1, issued on January 13, 2025, allows for demolishing fire-damaged buildings without the need for permits.

Eligibility:
Eligible Structures are those structures that were destroyed or substantially damaged by the Wildfires known as the Palisades, Hurst, Kenneth, Archer, and Sunset Fires that occurred in January 2025.

Demolition of a structure, improvement, or facility substantially damaged or destroyed by the Wildfires shall comply with all local, state, and federal regulations for the disposal of waste and debris removal, including any regulations set forth by the Los Angeles County of Public Works.

The debris removal requires a Fire Debris Removal Permit and, subsequently, a Completion Certificate (Final Sign-off) from Los Angeles County Public Works. To apply for a Fire Debris Removal Permit, please visit epicla.lacounty.gov.

A demolition permit from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) is not required for the removal of the damaged building when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The applicant notifies the Department of Building and Safety through the online portal prior to the demolition.
2. The damaged building footprint or pad slope is not steeper than 1 vertical to 5 horizontal (20% slope).
3. If foundations are removed, the excavated areas do not exceed 3 feet in depth and lateral support of adjacent structures or public right of way is maintained.

A demolition permit is required for the removal of the damaged building, if the building footprint or pad slope is steeper than 1 vertical to 5 horizontal (20% slope).

In all cases, deep foundations, piles, grade beams, stepped footings and retaining walls shall not be removed, unless a permit has been obtained from the Department of Building and Safety to ensure the stability of the site.