



Concrete Slabs and Foundations Damaged by Fire

Foundations and slabs are required to be included as part of the fire debris removed from a site unless approved by the Building Division. In general, the structural integrity of concrete and masonry (CMU) can adversely be affected in fire situations, especially when the structure is completely consumed by the fire. The properties of the material may be irreversibly altered rendering it unsatisfactory for reuse in supporting a rebuilt structure.

For the foundation and slab to be reused the Town of Paradise requires the following:

- The perimeter around the foundation must be tested to ensure it is free of contaminants and hazardous materials that may have been released by the building contents during the fire, into the ground. This test must be conducted in accordance with EPA Lab Method 6020 and 7471A. The test includes exploratory drilling into the ground.
- Foundation and slab must be tested to evaluate the compressive strength of the concrete in accordance with ASTM C39 or ASTM C140.
- These tests require taking core samples from foundations and doing a compressive test in a certified lab.
- Provide a letter from a licensed architect, civil or structural engineer certifying the foundation is acceptable for rebuild. The letter shall adequately explain the basis for the decisions and shall include results from the core test.
- Owners are required to obtain approval from the Town of Paradise Building Division and the Butte County Environmental Health Division for reuse of the foundation.