

## Remediation Company Vetting Questions

These questions incorporate guidance from environmental hygienists, public health experts, and industry standards, and will help ensure the remediation firm:

- Uses science-based practices.
- Prevents recontamination.
- Supports insurance and health safety documentation.

### 1. Credentials & Experience

- Are you certified or licensed for smoke and fire damage remediation?
- Do you work with a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)?
- How many post-wildfire remediation projects have you completed?
- Are your technicians trained in hazardous materials and indoor environmental remediation?

### 2. Assessment & Testing

- Do you conduct **pre- and post-remediation testing** for:
  - Particulate matter (soot, ash, char)?
  - VOCs and SVOCs?
  - Heavy metals like arsenic, lead, or hexavalent chromium?
- Do you follow a **written assessment and work plan**?
- What sampling or lab analysis methods do you use (e.g., microscopy, air/surface sampling)?
- Do you test for **pH levels** of ash (which may indicate corrosivity)?

### 3. Remediation Process

- What is your protocol for cleaning HVAC systems and ducts?
  - Do you use MERV 13+ filters and HEPA vacuums?

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After the Fire USA is an initiative of Rebuild Northbay Foundation, a registered nonprofit (501c3 & 501c4). We help communities navigate wildfires across the American West. We collaborate with public officials (regional, state and federal), private sector, nonprofit community, and support community led and designed recovery.

- How do you handle porous materials like drywall, insulation, carpet, and soft furniture?
- Do you use **enzyme-based or safe chemical agents** for decontamination?
- How do you prevent **recontamination** during and after cleanup?

## 4. Air Quality & Monitoring

- Do you offer **ongoing indoor air quality monitoring** (PM2.5, TVOCs)?
- Do you install or recommend HEPA air purifiers or carbon filters for VOCs?
- How do you verify indoor air quality is safe after remediation?

## 5. Protective Measures

- What type of **PPE** do your workers use (e.g., P100 respirators, full-body coveralls)?
- How do you ensure occupant safety during cleanup?
- Will areas be **sealed or isolated** to prevent cross-contamination?

## 6. Insurance & Documentation

- Will you assist in **insurance claim documentation**, including providing a CIH report?
- Can you provide before-and-after test results or clearance sampling?
- Are you familiar with working with insurers to establish contamination coverage?

## 7. Transparency & Red Flags

- Do you guarantee full **odor removal**, not just masking?
- Will you **avoid fogging** unless it is part of a comprehensive remediation plan?
- What is your protocol if further contamination is discovered during remediation?

## 8. Post-Remediation Verification

- What are your criteria for determining if a space is safe for re-occupancy?
- Do you use **visual, olfactory, and laboratory evidence** to confirm remediation success?
- Will you provide a **final CIH clearance** or equivalent documentation?

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