

Retail Food Establishment Reentry After Evacuation from Wildfire

In the aftermath of a disaster, there may be a loss of control of the five food-borne illness risk factors that lead to most food-borne illness outbreaks:

- Food from Unsafe Sources
- Poor Hygienic Practices
- Inadequate Cooking Temperatures
- Improper Holding/Time and Temperature
- Contaminated Equipment/Protection from Contamination

Maintaining control of food-borne illness (FBI) risk factors in restaurants significantly decreases the risk of FBI outbreaks in the community.

When reentering your retail food establishment after an evacuation be sure to:

- **Contact your local public health agency, San Juan Basin Public Health, at (970) 749-5042 once you have gained access to the property.** An Environmental Health Specialist will provide you with information specific to your retail food establishment and what is needed to re-open.
- Contact SJBPH for assistance if your retail food establishment intends to file an insurance claim for losses due to the evacuation.
- Discard any potentially hazardous food made in-house more than seven days ago and kept under refrigeration.
- Discard any food that has exceeded its expiration date.
- Sanitize all food contact and non-contact surfaces.
- Verify that all equipment, especially refrigeration and freezer units, are safe, operational and properly functioning.
- If generators are needed to supplement the power supply, be sure to keep them outside and away from doors and windows, as they produce dangerous amounts carbon monoxide.

If you know or suspect that your retail food establishment has lost power and/or water pressure during the evacuation:

- San Juan Basin Public Health must conduct an inspection prior to re-opening.
- Discard potentially hazardous foods that have been above 41° F for 4+ hours. **When in doubt, throw it out.**
- Examine all sinks, floors, ice machine water lines, soda machines, dishwashers, etc. for contamination from a waste water backflow event. Thoroughly clean and disinfect.

San Juan Basin Public Health will be making a courtesy visit to your establishment to ensure food safety and to assist in any way needed.