



CASE STUDY:

Wildfire Recovery for Plumas County Schools



Challenge

In the wake of a devastating wildfire, Plumas County faced significant damage impacting a total of 10 schools, including 3 high schools and 7 elementary schools. The aftermath left the schools coated in ash, soot, and smoke, creating an urgent need for thorough cleaning and restoration to ensure a safe environment for students and staff. Quick action was required to mitigate health risks and get the schools back open.

Proposed Solution

West Coast Fire & Water was contracted to address the extensive damage caused by the wildfire. In collaboration with a third-party hygienist, a comprehensive cleaning protocol was established to ensure all affected areas were thoroughly cleaned and certified safe for occupancy. The project followed a structured three-stage approach.

Phase 1: Cleaning Team

A dedicated team was deployed to clean all affected areas, focusing on both the interior and exterior of the schools. This included the meticulous cleaning of all horizontal surfaces, ensuring that ash and soot were removed effectively. Additionally, carpet cleaning was performed to restore indoor environments.



Phase 2: Equipment Setup & Final Touchups

The second team set up air scrubbers to reduce particulate matter in the air while conducting final touch-ups to ensure every area met cleanliness standards. This step was crucial in preparing the schools for the final inspection.

Phase 3: Quality Control Checks

The final team performed quality control checks with the hygienist, ensuring that all cleaning protocols were followed meticulously. If any areas required further attention, they were promptly addressed. At the conclusion of the cleaning, the hygienist conducted clearance testing to certify that each school was safe for students and staff to return.



Results

Through the coordinated efforts of West Coast Fire & Water and the hygienist, all 10 schools were thoroughly cleaned, tested, and certified within a short timeframe. The prompt response ensured that the schools were ready to reopen as soon as possible, significantly reducing the downtime caused by the wildfire.

The successful execution of the cleaning protocol not only restored the physical environments of the schools but also reinstated confidence in the community regarding the safety of their educational facilities.