

# SAFETY BULLETIN

Date: March 26, 2026

Subject: Actions Required if Contact to Valley Fever Dust Is Detected or Reported

## Valley Fever is on the Rise in California



### Issue:

**Required Action:** Managers and supervisors must ensure that all employees, volunteers, and emergency personnel under their oversight receive and understand this Safety Alert.

### You may not see it but it's there

#### Evacuate Immediately

- Leave the area at once.
- Move upwind to a safe location away from the structure.

#### Avoid Tainted Sources

- Do not operate heavy equipment.
- Do not dig in the affected area.
- Do not operate rotor wing aircraft in areas.

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## **Do Not Attempt Repairs or Investigation**

- Do not try to locate the source unless you are trained, authorized, and it can be done safely from outside the hazard area.

## **Warn Others From a Safe Location**

- Notify nearby occupants verbally once clear of the area.
- Prevent others from entering.

## **Report the Incident**

- From a safe location, contact **911 or park dispatch** when there is any immediate risk or uncertainty.
- Notify your supervisor and emergency staff per local procedures.

## **Do Not Re-Enter**

- Re-entry is prohibited until health department and trained emergency responders, declare the area safe.

*Note: In remote locations, such as backcountry, where response by emergency responders, personnel may be delayed, flag off to quickly gather information to inform next steps. Use of appropriate devices that personnel must be trained in its use and properly equipped with the device.*

## **Supervisor Responsibilities: Response to Reported incident**

When a valley fever location is reported to you, your role is to **protect life first** and initiate the appropriate emergency and facilities response.

## **Treat All Reports as Credible**

- Assume a hazardous condition exists until cleared by qualified responders.

## **Direct Immediate Evacuation**

- Ensure occupants leave the affected area without operating heavy equipment or vehicles nearby.
- Establish a clear no-entry posture and keep personnel at a safe distance.

## **Initiate Emergency Notifications**

- From a safe location, contact **911 or Incident/local dispatch** when there is any indication of danger, uncertainty, or ongoing dust.
- Notify Incident management, agency staff, duty officers, and other required contacts per local emergency procedures.
- Ensure the health department is contacted through established channels.

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## **Do Not Troubleshoot or Direct Untrained Response**

- Do not investigate, or assign staff to do so unless they are trained, authorized, and conditions are confirmed safe.

## **Account for Personnel**

- Confirm evacuated employees and residents are safe once conditions allow. Report to de-con and work on follow up information. Symptoms can be months before they show.

## **Control Re-Entry**

- Re-entry is authorized only after clearance by emergency responders, personnel.

## **Document and Follow Up**

- Ensure required incident and safety reporting is completed.
- Coordinate corrective actions with facilities and safety staff before normal operations resume.
- Clean or replace cabin air filters during demob or soon as possible.
- File exposure medical forms when working in these areas according to agency policy.

**Additional Information:** Please direct any questions regarding this alert to , CWCG Chair Fire Chief, or , Occupational Safety and Health Branch Chief, [s](#)

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/cwcg>

<https://firescope.caloes.ca.gov>