

# Swimming Pools After a Fire

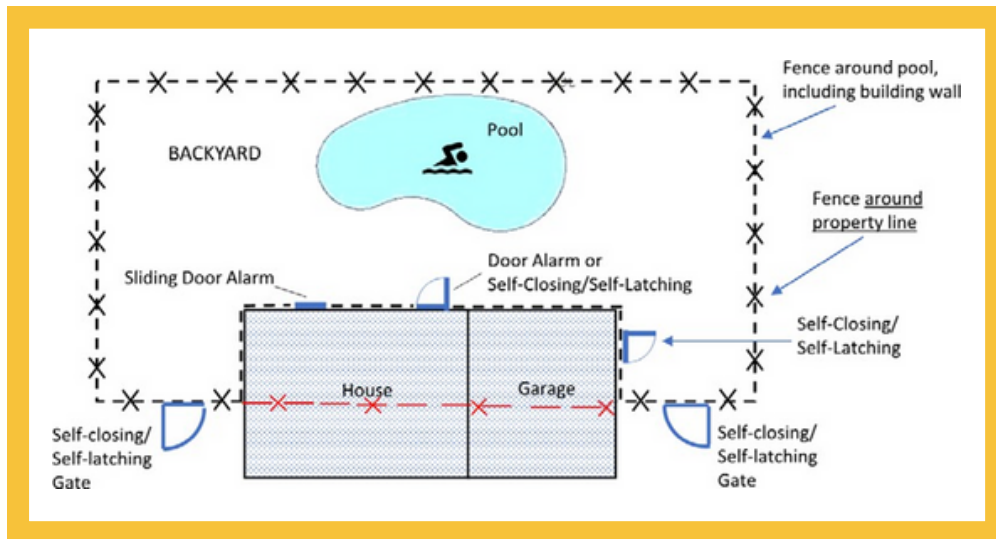
Take Precautions. Be Safe. Protect Your Health.



## SWIMMING POOL FENCING

When a fire damages or destroys homes and properties, it may also damage or destroy pool/spa enclosures. Swimming pools and spas without a proper enclosure can be a major hazard. To prevent drowning, injuries, or other risks, swimming pools and spas must be enclosed with a protective fence with the following specifications:

- The enclosure shall be at least 60 inches in height above grade.
- Construction material can be chain link, solid wood, wrought iron, etc.
- Gaps shall not exceed **4 inches** to prevent access by small children.
- Gates and entrances shall be self-closing and self-latching.
- Please contact your **local Building and Safety Department** for construction requirements.



## Mosquito Breeding

An unkept pool or spa results in stagnant water, making it a breeding ground for mosquitoes to lay eggs that can produce **thousands of mosquitoes** in just a few weeks. Mosquitoes can spread serious diseases, such as West Nile Virus and Zika Virus.



It is important to keep mosquito breeding conditions from occurring to prevent the spread of disease. As a reminder, under the California Health and Safety Codes, homeowners are responsible for preventing and eliminating any mosquito breeding on their property.

**It is not necessary to empty the pool.** Instead, use the following preventive measures to control mosquito breeding in vacant swimming pools or spas:

1. **Mosquito dunks**—A mosquito dunk is a donut shaped solid item put in the swimming pool water to kill mosquito larvae and can be purchased at any hardware or garden shop.
2. **Mosquito fish**—Mosquito fish are about the size of minnows and eat mosquito larvae. If mosquito fish are used, chemicals (such as chlorine) cannot be in or added to the water.

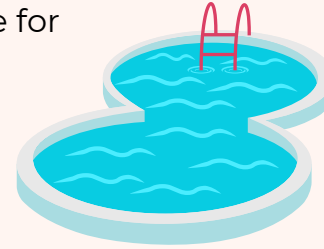
For mosquito fish, treatment and further assistance, please contact your **local Mosquito Abatement District**.

# Rebuilding Swimming Pools and Spas

The fire may have damaged the structural components of a swimming pool or spa, including the shell, deck, equipment, and enclosure. Please follow the instructions below when repairing or rebuilding your pool following a wildfire.

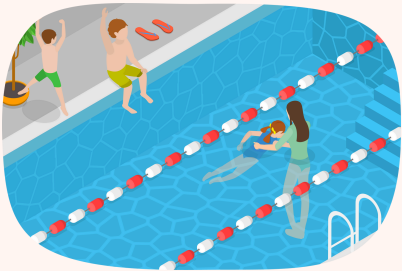
## 1. Residential Swimming Pools and Spas

All private swimming pools and spas are permitted by local building and safety departments. Please contact your local building and safety office for information and instructions regarding repairs to the pool structure and/or equipment. Any repairs to the pool structure and equipment requires submission of construction plans for review and approval.



Please note that the State debris removal program does not include removal of materials from pool repairs. Demolition of pools will require permits and disposal of pool demolition material, which is the responsibility of the owner. For further assistance, please contact your **local Building and Safety Department**.

## 2. Public Swimming Pools and Spas



All public swimming pools and spas, such as those located at hotels/motels, apartment buildings, condominiums, schools, health clubs, city parks, mobile home parks, resorts, organizations, water theme parks, and medical facilities are permitted by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Any repairs to the pool structure and equipment requires submission of construction plans for review and approval.

## Note:

If your pool needs to be drained due to damage or to make repairs, contact your **local city** for guidance. In general, pool water must be dechlorinated before being discharged.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health, **Recreational Waters Program**, at **(626) 430-5360** or [rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:rhealth@ph.lacounty.gov).