



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Environmental Health Division

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Black Forest Fire Building Permits

On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Evaluation Requirements

The OWTS Evaluation Requirements have been revised based on feedback received from evaluators, and our staff field investigations. This revision supercedes the previous evaluation document dated July 12, 2013.

El Paso County Public Health has received notification from the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department that an application for a permit to rebuild or repair a residence, which was destroyed or damaged by the Black Forest Fire. Before this department will approve the plans, the condition and capacity of the on-site wastewater treatment system (septic system) must be evaluated to determine if it is adequate to serve the new or repaired residence.

Septic system evaluations must be conducted by an El Paso County Public Health Licensed System Installer, Licensed System Cleaner, or a Colorado Registered Professional Engineer. Lists of these professionals are provided at <http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/service/septic-site-wastewater-systems>. There might be portions of the septic system that may require uncovering for evaluation by digging down to the following components*:

- Cleanouts and portions of the building sewer line between the house to the septic tank,
- Lids and risers of the septic tank(s) and/or pumping chamber(s),
- Portions of the building sewer line from the tank to the soil treatment area, and
- Portions of the soil treatment area (leach field).

** Adequate areas to uncover may include at least 2 locations on each of the components listed above, with the exception of a dry well system where it may be necessary to uncover the lid. Evaluators are encouraged to use experience and professional judgement regarding possible fire damage to the system components. In areas where there was no obvious fire damage or damage by vehicular traffic, uncovering portions of system components may not be necessary. In these cases, attaching photographs to the report is suggested. Please note that underground camera surveillance of these components is acceptable for system evaluation.*

An electronic evaluation report of the septic system must be sent to El Paso County Public Health by the system evaluator through a link located on the “Septic System” main page at www.elpasocountyhealth.org titled “Black Forest Fire OWTS”. Based on the evaluation submitted, and our review, the system may require a septic repair permit. Further evaluation of the system will include a sizing evaluation comparing the current system size with the requirements for the new construction. Alterations to the system may be required based on both the physical and sizing assessments performed on your system as outlined above.

Please contact the Environmental Health Division at 578.3199 extension #3, if you have any questions and/or you would like a copy of your septic system records, if on file.

Please note: low interest or even 0% interest loans are available to citizens with failing or damaged septic systems who meet qualifying criteria. Contact Colorado Springs Housing Development at 719-385-5912 for further info.

Updated July 28, 2013