

If your home has been affected by the recent wildfires, here are a few points on why a pre-smoke cleaning VOC test is important.

- 1) OSHA requires it and a licensed contractor has to be able to show proof it was done for employee and occupant safety. See OSHA Regulation 1910.134(d)(1)(iii)
- 2) Any contractor or qualified cleaning company needs to know what VOC's, toxic gases, and chemicals generated by the fire, that may be present in the indoor air environment before introducing cleaning agents or other chemicals. This is necessary in order to avoid creating additional toxic byproducts and chemical reactions when cleaning chemicals or other agents are introduced.
- 3) A contractor or qualified smoke odor cleaning company needs to have a cleaning and smoke remediation protocol provided by an independent third-party VOC testing company in order to properly remediate the contaminants to restore the dwelling and its indoor air to a pre-loss condition.
- 4) The insured needs to know if any toxic chemicals, gases, particulate matter, etc. are present so they can avoid exposure and make arrangements to be out of the house during the repairs and remediation.

There are other reasons for a clearance test once the cleaning is done.