



EPA REMOVAL ACTION AT RETURN TO NATURE FUNERAL HOME



December 18, 2023, Update about Penrose Funeral Home

Following the assessment, EPA has determined that demolition of the building is necessary to safely remove all medical, biological, and hazardous materials found in the building. The cleanup will be conducted under the direction of EPA's Emergency Response personnel and its trained hazardous materials contractors. To initiate this cleanup, EPA is drafting a workplan and anticipate our contractors and their crews will begin mobilization to the site around January 17, 2024. We expect the demolition to take approximately 10 days, weather permitting.

In order to prepare the site for demolition, EPA will continue to work with Fremont County, CDPHE, and the local utility companies to ensure safety control measures are established at the site. Prior to and during demolition, EPA's contractors will spray a disinfectant and odor suppressant into the interior of the building. Staging areas for loading trucks with demolition materials will be located next to the building.

Once demolition begins, excavators will start to break up the building from the top down and remove large pieces of the structure, while working to keep it within the foundation footprint. During this process, EPA will use water and other liquid solutions for dust suppression, but not in quantities that would cause runoff of contamination from the interior of the building to the ground surface outside.

Ground crews will manage demolition materials to ensure the loading process into the dump trucks is efficient and protective. These materials will be prepared and loaded into trucks in accordance with applicable regulations and landfill requirements. Once the building and concrete foundation slab have been removed, EPA will conduct a shallow surface scrape of soils on the footprint of the building. The soils will be transported to the landfill through the same process as the building materials.

In the coming weeks, EPA will continue to update local officials and stakeholders about final plans. All updates will also be posted on our website: response.epa.gov/PenroseFuneralHome.

EPA Contacts

On-Scene Coordinator

Joyce Ackerman

Ackerman.Joyce@epa.gov

303-312-6822



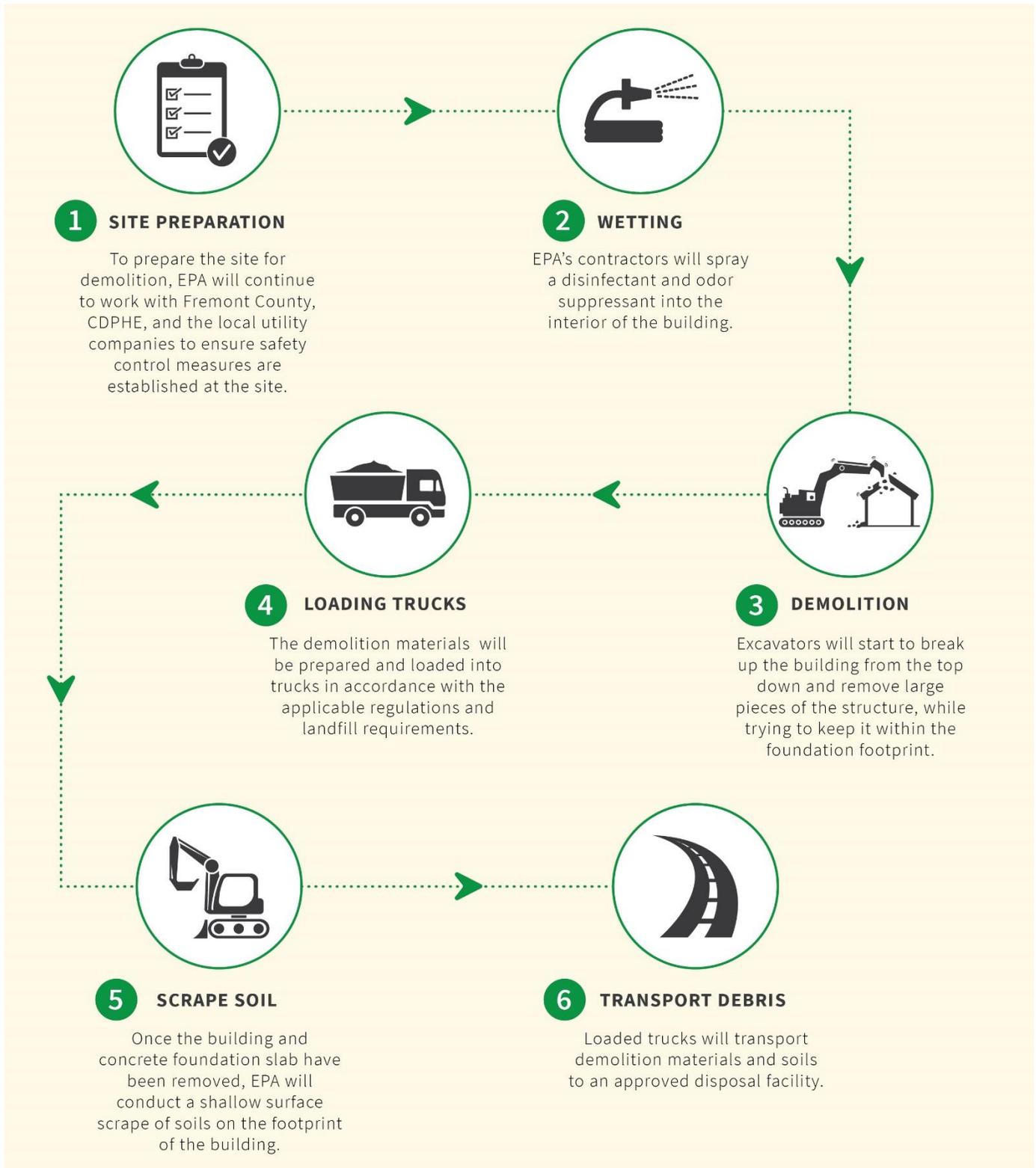
For updates and information, please visit
<https://response.epa.gov/PenroseFuneralHome>
or scan QR code above.

Public Information Officer

Katherine Jenkins

Jenkins.Katherine@epa.gov

303-312-6351



Background

To address the public nuisance identified at the Return to Nature Funeral Home at 31 Werner Road, Penrose Colorado on October 31, 2023, the Fremont County Board of Health ratified issuance of a legal Public Health Order. Following this Public Health Order, Fremont County and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment requested that the EPA conduct a “removal action” including demolishing and disposing of building materials.

In response to this request, an EPA team and their contractors conducted an assessment of the building on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, to determine EPA’s role and next steps. Personnel entering the building wore protective clothing to protect them from any residual medical or hazardous materials remaining inside the building. There were no risks to the public from these assessment activities.