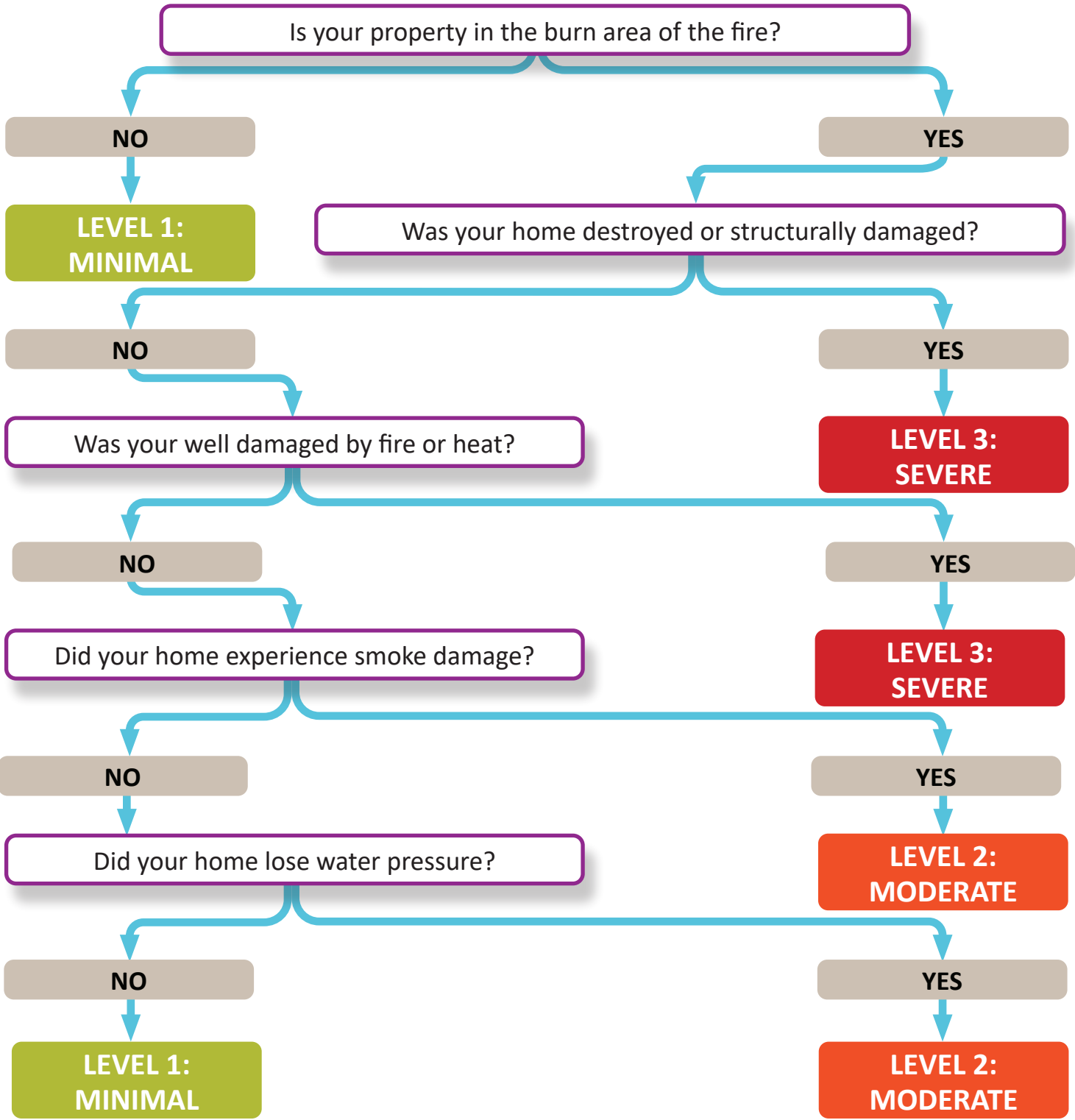


ASSESSING THE DAMAGE TO PRIVATE WELLS AFTER A FIRE



This tool is meant for properties that were damaged by fire or where the fire came within 100 feet of the property.

USE THIS RESOURCE TO ASSESS DAMAGE LEVELS AND IDENTIFY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Some work needs to be done by a licensed contractor, a licensed well constructor or an electrician. Make sure you know what work you are authorized to do and what is required to be done by a licensed professional.

LEVEL 1

MINIMAL: FIRE IMPACTED AREAS

- Flush your water lines as soon as possible.
- Routine annual testing, including nitrite, nitrate, lead, and coliform bacteria.
- If the well has not had previous baseline water quality sampling, conduct additional sampling to evaluate drinking water quality. At a minimum, test for arsenic, hardness, coliform bacteria, copper, fluoride, iron, lead, nitrate/nitrite and uranium.

HOW TO FLUSH WATER LINES

Follow these steps to flush all pipes and in-building components:

- **Cold water:** allow each water tap (sinks, showers, outside hose, etc.) to run for about five minutes. Multiple taps can be run at the same time but maintain vigorous flow.
- **Hot water tank:** run each hot water tap until the water turns cold. If you use a tankless water heater, run the hot water for two minutes.
- **Refrigerators and other water dispensers (under-sink filtration systems):** run the water for several minutes, and then replace the filter if present.
- **Ice makers:** follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning ice maker water lines, dispose of any existing ice, and dispose the ice from three refills.

LEVEL 2

MODERATE: SMOKE DAMAGE / PRESSURE LOSS

- Take extra caution.
- Do not drink or boil water until the following steps are completed and test results show no contamination:
- If well is intact but house is destroyed, disconnect your home from the well.
- If well head is damaged, cover the well to prevent groundwater contamination.
- Contact well service provider for guidance on well repair and water treatment.
- Loss of pressure can lead to bacterial contamination of your well. Test for VOCs, SVOCs, lead, nitrate, nitrite, pH, turbidity, coliform bacteria.
- For support with test results, contact Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's ToxCall hotline 303-692-2606 or email cdphe_toxcall@state.co.us

LEVEL 3

SEVERE: BURN DAMAGE

- Take extra caution.
- Do not drink or boil water until the following steps are completed and test results show no contamination:
- If well is intact but house is destroyed, disconnect your home from the well.
- If well head is damaged, cover the well to prevent groundwater contamination.
- Contact well service provider for guidance on well repair and water treatment.
- Loss of pressure can lead to bacterial contamination of your well. Test for VOCs, SVOCs, lead, nitrate, nitrite, pH, turbidity, coliform bacteria.
- For support with test results, contact Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's ToxCall hotline 303-692-2606 or email cdphe_toxcall@state.co.us