

About.com US Government Info



[Share](#) [Print](#)

Los Alamos Laboratory: After the Fire

Dateline: 05/11/00

Although the nuclear residue at the Los Alamos National Laboratory will safely survive the wildfire now devouring hundreds of surrounding homes, it will not survive the Department of Energy's existing plans for cleanup and closure of America's nuclear weapons facilities. (See: [Nuclear Weapons: Pay Up to Cleanup](#), by your About.com Guide.)

According to the Department of Energy's 1998 *Paths to Closure* report, The Laboratory, established in 1943 to design, develop, and test nuclear weapons, actively processed deadly plutonium metal from 1945 to 1978. Other activities during the same period included reprocessing nuclear fuel, processing polonium and actinium, and producing nuclear weapons components.

Today, the Laboratory continues to do research in fields such as nuclear physics, hydrodynamics, conventional explosives, chemistry, metallurgy, radiochemistry and the life sciences.

Department of Energy plans for cleaning up the Los Alamos Laboratories call for all low-level nuclear waste to be removed by the end of 2003, with all high-level, or transuranic waste to be removed by the end of 2013. Plans also call for an environmental restoration project to be completed during 2009, with up to 7,000 acres currently used by the Laboratory transferred to Los Alamos County for industrial use.

Many residents of the Los Alamos, NM area had long feared radiation from the nuclear leftovers at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos Laboratory would someday drive them from their homes. It must now be bitter irony for them to watch those homes being eaten up by a wildfire mistakenly set by totally different government agency, the National Parks Service.

Reference Links

[Incident Management Situation Report](#)

The most current and complete data on each of the fires involved. Data includes estimated containment, personnel and equipment being used, and accumulated costs to fight the fires.

[National Fire News - Wildfire Updates](#)

Gives updates on all current U.S. Wildfires and phone numbers to call for additional information.

[Los Alamos National Laboratory Fire Updates](#)

"Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos schools and county offices (except for emergency services) remain closed."

[Los Alamos National Laboratories -- Science & Technology](#)

A detailed presentation of the research now being done at Los Alamos.

[Paths to Closure](#)

Download the entire DOE report on closing down and cleaning up America's nuclear weapons facilities.

from **About**

[Energy Will Help Rebuild Los Alamos](#)

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson was quoted on May 11, 2000 as stating that his department would help rebuild the wildfire ravaged town of Los Alamos, New Mexico. From your About.com Guide.

[New Mexico Burning](#)

Albuquerque/Santa Fe, NM Guide Phyllis Gonzales covers the tragic wildfire from right next door. Get the latest shelter and relief information here.

[Los Alamos Fire Continues to Blaze](#)

Total coverage of this disastrous fire from U.S. Current Events Guide Clare Saliba.

[New Mexico's Season of Wind and Fire](#)

Southwest US for Visitors Guide Boise Matthews' personal and lyrical take on the fires. She has also assembled a host of informative links to wildlife articles, ecology and climate backgrounders, and general Los Alamos and area reading.

[Los Alamos Cerro Grande Fire](#)

Composites Guide Berry Berenberg provides updates, maps and more local information on the New Mexico fires.

[Nuclear Weapons: Pay Up to Cleanup](#)

Report on the scope and cost of the Energy Department's nuclear weapons production clean up project. From your About.com Guide.

[In Congress Today](#)

The daily schedules of House and Senate, major legislation, votes and more.

[US Government Job Openings](#)

Links to vacancy announcements at dozens of agencies and military branches.

[Huge Index of Government Web Sites](#)

One of the largest lists of agencies, bureaus and offices on the Web.

[Supreme Court Report](#)

Find out about recent decisions and major cases now being considered by the Supreme Court. Includes links to texts of Court decisions and analysis by many of your About.com Guides and other major media sources.

[How to...](#)

...do lots of things involving the U.S. Government.

[Latest News and Features](#)

The latest news and features on US Government Info/Resources.

[Politics? You want Politics?](#)

Guide John Aravosis is an insider who'll deliver all the politics you can handle.

[Military Questions?](#)

Guide Rod Powers probably has the answers.

[Immigration Headlines](#)

Keep up with the latest news about U.S. immigration laws and events with Guides Jennifer and Peter Wipf.

[Express Your Opinions](#)

US Gov Info/Resources
Recent Discussions

- [www.tviexpress.com](#)
- [SEPARATING CHURCH & STATE](#)
- [Pike Co., PA Witch Trials](#)
- [President Obama's stimulus bill](#)
- [INS Citizenship Question](#)
- [The Gettysburg Address](#)
- [Free Computers for the Disabled Vets & C](#)
- [computer](#)

Just click on a topic to read or take part in the discussion.

Subscribe to the Newsletter

Name Email

Explore US Government Info

Free US Government Info Newsletter!

Enter email address

By Category

- [Government Jobs](#)
- [U.S. Court System](#)
- [Business and Money](#)
- [Defense and Security](#)
- [Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [Historic Documents](#)
- [Auction and Sales](#)
- [The Political System](#)
- [Consumer Awareness](#)
- [Older Americans](#)
- [Healthcare](#)
- [Census and Statistics](#)
- [Technology and Research](#)
- [U.S. Congress](#)
- [The President and Cabinet](#)

Must Reads

- [States May Have Small Business Grants](#)
- [U.S. Citizenship Test](#)
- [Congress Salaries and Benefits](#)
- [How to Get a Federal Tax ID Number](#)
- [Money to Start a Small Business](#)

Most Popular

- [State Small Business Grants](#)
- [Questions and Answers for New Naturalization Test](#)
- [Sample INS Citizenship Questions](#)
- [Congress Salaries and Benefits](#)
- [Heart Attack Symptoms in Women](#)