

What is the difference between Suppression Repair and Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)?

Suppression repair activities are typically managed by an Incident Management Team immediately after containment lines are no longer needed. Suppression repair target man-made actions taken while suppressing a fire, (i.e., dozer, handline, etc.) whereas BAER looks at long term repair for areas impacted by the fire.

The purpose of suppression repair is to minimize near-term environmental resource impacts due to fire suppression efforts. For example, dozer or handline installed along a ridge or values at risk (culverts, roads, etc.) may need removal of debris. The goal of suppression repair is to protect adjacent values at risk using approved standards, such as chipping, installation of water bars, cleaning out culverts, removing hazard tree along roadways, and repairing any damaged roads.

The BAER team identifies potential emergency threats to critical BAER values, and recommends emergency stabilization response actions that are implemented on federal land to reduce potential post-fire threats. Critical values that may be considered at-risk on federal lands are:

- Human life and safety.
- Property such as buildings, water systems and infrastructure, utility systems, road and trail prisms.
- Critical natural resources such as water, soil productivity and hydrologic function, areas where invasive species or noxious weeds may impact native or naturalized communities and may include critical habitat or suitable occupied habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species.
- Critical cultural and heritage resources such as pre-historic and historic properties and sites.

For more information on BAER operations, please visit the Caldor Post-Fire BAER incident website on Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7842/>