

What to do after fire strikes you!

The following is a check list of some of the things to do after your fire.

The first 24 hours following your fire:

___ Contact your local disaster relief service (American Red Cross) to help with your immediate needs such as:

- 1) Temporary housing
- 2) Food
- 3) Medicine
- 4) Eyeglasses
- 5) Clothing
- 6) Other essential items

___ **Contact your homeowners insurance.**

Do not enter the damaged site. Fires can rekindle from hidden, smoldering remains.

Normally the fire department will see that the utilities are safe to use or are disconnected before they leave the site. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TURN UTILITIES BACK ON YOURSELF!**

Be watchful for structural damage caused by the fire. Roofs and floors may be damaged and subject to collapse.

Food products, beverages and medicines exposed to heat, smoke, soot and water should not be consumed.

Leaving your home:

- ** Contact your local police department to let them know the site will be unoccupied
- ** In some cases it may be necessary to board up openings to discourage trespassers

Beginning immediately, save receipts for any money you spend. These receipts are important in showing the insurance company what money you have spent related to your fire loss and also for verifying losses claimed on your income tax.

If it is safe to do so, try to locate the following items:

- ___ Identification (driver's licenses, social security cards etc)
- ___ Insurance information
- ___ Medication information
- ___ Eyeglasses, hearing aids or other prosthetic devices
- ___ Valuables, such as credit cards, bank books, cash and jewelry

People/entities that should be notified of your relocation:

- Your insurance agent
- Your mortgage company and let them know about the fire
- Family and friends
- Employer
- Child's school
- Post office
- Any delivery services
- Fire and police departments
- Utility companies

Insured

Give notice of the loss to the insurance company or the insurer's agent/company.

Ask the insurance company what to do about the immediate needs of the dwelling, such as covering doors, windows, and other exposed areas, and pumping out water.

Ask your insurance company what actions are required of you. Some policyholders may be required to make an inventory of damaged personal property showing in detail the quantity, description and how much you paid for the items.

Not insured

Your recovery from a fire loss may be based upon your own resources and help from your community.

Private organizations that may be of use include:

- 1) American Red Cross
- 2) Salvation Army
- 3) Religious organizations
- 4) Department of Social Services
- 5) State or municipal emergency services office
- 6) Non-profit crisis counseling centers

Need documents replaced:

Here is a list of places to contact if you need documents replaced

- 1) Driver's license (department of motor vehicles)
- 2) Auto registration (county treasurer)
- 3) Bank books (your bank right away)
- 4) Insurance policy (your insurance agent)
- 5) Military discharge papers (department of veterans affairs)
- 6) Birth, death, marriage certificates (bureau of records in the appropriate state)
- 7) Divorce papers (circuit court where decree was issued)

- 8) Social security or Medicare cards (local social security office)
- 9) Credit cards (issuing companies right away)
- 10) Titles to deeds (records department of the locality in which the property is located)
- 11) Stocks or bonds (issuing company or your broker)
- 12) Wills (lawyer)
- 13) Medical records (doctor's)
- 14) Warranties (issuing company)
- 15) Income tax records (IRS)
- 16) Citizenship papers (U.S. immigration)
- 17) Prepaid burial contract (issuing company)
- 18) Animal registration papers (city hall and humane society)
- 19) Mortgage papers (lending bank)

Check with an accountant or the IRS about special benefits for people recovering from fire loss.

If you have any other questions contact the fire department at 263-9233