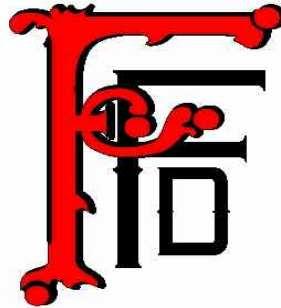


After the Fire...

Getting started again



Introduction

Recovering from a fire can be a physically and mentally draining process. When fire strikes, lives are suddenly turned around. Often, the hardest part is knowing where to begin and who to contact. The Farmington Fire Department is dedicated to serving the citizens of our community with the utmost care and professionalism. Providing as much assistance to you as possible after the fire is out is also part of our job. This pamphlet was developed as a resource for you to aid in adjustment and recovery. It is our hope that it will assist in reducing your loss and speeding the recovery process.

Fire Extinguishment

Why are there broken windows, doors or holes in the roof?
Fire produces temperatures in excess of 1200 degrees,

along with smoke and hot gases. At times it is necessary to eliminate heat, smoke and hot gases by ventilation before firefighters can enter to extinguish the fire. Ventilation must be done quickly to help reduce fire spread. Often, firefighters forcibly open walls and ceilings to find the "hidden fire" allowing complete extinguishment of the fire. After the fire is out, this type of damage may appear unnecessary. However, without the use of these fire fighting techniques, extinguishing the fire would be much more difficult.

Property Insurance

Contact your insurance company or agent as soon as possible. If you are renting or leasing the property, you must also contact the owner. Your insurance adjuster may be able to assist you in making immediate repairs or helping to secure your home. If you are unable to contact your agent and need professional assistance in boarding up your home, a general contractor or fire damage restoration firm can help. Check the yellow pages.

If your property is not insured, or if your insurance will not cover all your losses, contact your family lawyer or the Internal Revenue Service for directions. You may be eligible for a tax deduction.

The First 24 Hours

1. Remove as many valuables as possible. Note: The home owner may temporarily be denied access to certain articles, areas, or the entire structure until the scene is studied and released by the Farmington Fire Department company officer or investigator. This action does not imply suspicion; rather it is a policy of the Farmington Fire Department to find cause of all fires. Be sure to inventory what is removed.
 2. Check your residence for important legal documents, which may have been damaged. Refer to the Care of Documents and Books section for listing of important paperwork.
 3. Contact the Farmington Police Department, which will help keep an eye on the property during your absence.
 4. If you need assistance contact the local American Red Cross or Salvation Army office. Services available from these agencies include providing food, clothing, lodging, and other necessities. If you are insured under a package homeowner or tenant's policy, a section of your coverage may pay for the extra costs of temporary housing, such as a stay in a hotel.
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5. Try to locate the following items to take with you:
 - Personal Identification
 - Vital medicines such as blood pressure regulation medications or insulin. Please check with your physician or pharmacist prior to taking any medication. Consumption of medication exposed

to severe heat or air contaminants may not be safe.

- Eyeglasses, hearing aids, or other personal aids.
- Valuables such as credit cards, checkbooks, insurance policies, savings account books, money, jewelry, photos, home videos, etc. If you have a safe, do not attempt to open it. A safe involved in fire may hold intense heat for several hours.

1. If you have moved:

- Notify the post office of you new address.
- Notify your bank(s).
- Notify your credit card companies.
- Check with your local school district.
- Notify the Social Security Administration.
- Notify any magazine or newspapers you subscribe to.

Utilities

Often the Fire Department will have the utility services shut off or disconnected as a safety precaution, and also to prevent further damage to the structure and its contents. For

utility restoration, please refer to the telephone directory in back of pamphlet.

Counseling Support

After a fire, you may experience some of the following reactions: anxious feelings, depression, difficulty concentrating, sadness, anger, fatigue, hopelessness, irrational fears, and nightmares. These are common responses to a traumatic event. If you or your family members need support, call the American Red Cross (refer to the telephone directory in back of pamphlet) or check your yellow pages, under Counselors. Some employers and/or health insurance carriers provide coverage for counseling services.

Pets

As most people will agree, our pets are very important in our lives. After a fire strikes, do not assume that your pet has escaped unscathed just because it looks all right. Smoke can damage the lungs of your pet in minutes, and sparks can cause painful burns that will stay hidden under fur. As soon as possible, take your pet to a veterinarian. If your pet has been lost in the chaos and commotion, retrieving it may be possible by contacting local pet shelters (refer to the telephone directory in back of pamphlet).

Care of Documents

Documents are very important to your well being and can be damaged or destroyed as a result of a fire or other disaster. For this reason, the Farmington Fire Department has provided a list of documents that should be located if possible. Locating these documents will speed up the process of recovering from a disaster.

- Birth Certificates
- Wills
- Drivers License
- Medical Record
- Bank Books
- Payment Books
- Insurance Policies
- Warranties
- Military Discharge Papers
- Income Tax Records
- Passports
- Automobile Registration
- Social Security Cards

- Automobile Title
- Marriage Papers
- Citizenship Papers
- Divorce Decree
- Burial Contracts
- Credit Cards
- Title Deeds
- Stocks & Bonds
- Death Certificates
- Registration Papers for Animals

Copies of marriage and divorce records can be obtained from the clerk of the Superior Court in the county of the marriage or divorce.

Copies of birth and death certificates can be obtained from the County Clerks Office.

General Cleaning & Salvage Hints

If insured, contact your insurance company. If not, here are some hints you might want to consider.

1. Vacuum all surfaces.

2. Change and clean air conditioners/heater filters.
3. Seal off the room in which you are working with plastic wrap to keep soot from moving from one location to another. Try to keep windows closed.
4. Painted Walls - To remove soot and smoke from walls, mix together 4 to 6 tablespoons tri-sodium phosphate (can be purchased at paint stores) and one gallon of water. The use of rubber gloves and goggles is suggested. Wash a small area at a time working from the floor up. Do ceilings last. Rinse thoroughly. Do not repaint until completely dry.
5. Clothing - Before you begin, test garments before using any treatment and follow manufacture instructions. Smoke odor and soot can sometimes be washed from clothing. The following formula may work for clothing that can be bleached: 4 -6 tbsp of tri-sodium phosphate (available at paint stores), 1 cup of household cleaner or bleach and 1 gallons of water. Mix well, add clothes, rinse with clear water and dry thoroughly. Be sure to wear rubber gloves and read the label for further instructions. An effective way to remove mildew from clothing is to wash the fresh stain with soap and warm water, rinse, and then dry in the sun. If the stain has not disappeared, use lemon juice and salt or a diluted solution of household chlorine bleach.
6. Food - All food exposed to heat, smoke or -fire should be thrown out.
7. Electrical Appliances - Electrical appliances exposed fire or water should not be used until

you have them checked by a service representative.

8. Rugs and Carpets - Let carpet and rugs dry out thoroughly. Clean by sweeping or vacuuming. Shampoo with a commercial rug shampoo.

Money Replacement

Handle burned money as little as possible. Attempt to encase each bill or portion in plastic wrap for preservation. Take everything to your local bank for advice regarding replacement.

Customer Service 599-1352

Electric/Water/Sewer/Garbage

Fire Administration 599-1430

Copy of Reports/Assistance

Police Department 334-6622

Close Patrol/Security

Red Cross 325-9605

Emergency Assistance

Salvation Army 327-5117

Emergency Assistance

Animal Shelter 599-1098

Pet Considerations

San Juan Animal League 325-3366

Pet Considerations

IRS 327-6353

Tax Information

Post Office 325-5047

Mail Delivery Concerns

County Clerk 334-9471

Copies of Important Documentation

SJRMC 325-5011

Social Security 327-7345

Scheduled Benefit Worries

Farmington Daily Times 325-4545

Newspaper Delivery