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DISASTER RESTORATION SERVICES, LLC.

Emergency Tips

In Case of Fire & Smoke Damage!

Fire, Smoke and Soot losses can be among the most damaging, costly and traumatic disasters to happen to your home or business. Understanding the need for a quick response can save you thousands of dollars in secondary damage after the fire.

Fires cause damage in several ways. Damage occurs as a result of materials being consumed by flames leaving behind an acidic soot deposit that damages surfaces. Also, as different materials burn, such as, wood and plastics, they leave different types of soot behind, which must be cleaned based on their composition. Less well known, is the damage that occurs when heat pressurizes buildings forcing smoke and odor into openings in the structure and all types of porous material.

After fire damage it is natural for a person to want to try to clean a building or a home and its contents. There are many materials that can be damaged beyond repair by using the wrong products or procedures. The following Emergency Tips were compiled by members of the National Institute of Disaster Restoration and Loyear Disaster Restoration and are based on their wide experience in the field.

DO:

- Call a professional service (Loyear Disaster Restoration) for immediate help or advice to protect your home from further damage.
- Wait until after the building has been completely aired out to go into the building. Many types of smoke and fumes from fires are toxic.
- Remove all pets (especially birds) to clean environments.
- Wash plants with water on both sides of leaves. Scoop off the top layer of dirt in plant pot.
- Board up any broken windows or doors and tarp holes in the roof. (Since working on a roof is inherently dangerous you may want to call a professional to do this work.)
- If electricity is off, empty freezer and refrigerator completely and prop doors open with rolled towel or newspaper.
- If heat is shut off in the winter call a plumber to drain heating and plumbing systems and pour anti-freeze in toilet bowls, sinks and tubs to prevent freezing.
- Change furnace filters and have ducts cleaned.
- Clean surfaces that are most vulnerable to staining and pitting from acid soot deposits first, by watching and thoroughly drying. This includes, vinyl floors and windows, countertops, plastics, painted appliances, chrome trim and chrome fixtures, porcelain and fiberglass bathroom fixtures etc.

- Blow off or brush-vacuum loose soot particles from upholstery, drapes and carpets to keep soot from becoming imbedded in fibers.
- Oil guns and gun oil and take to a gunsmith to be checked and cleaned.
- Electronics such as computers, TV's, and VCR's should be cleaned internally by an authorized service company.

DO NOT:

- Use any foods, medicines, vitamins or other consumable items that have been exposed to smoke or heat.
- Use electrical appliances, until cleaned and checked.
- Clean the area where the fire originated until your Insurance Adjuster or Fire Inspector approves.
- Throw any damaged items away prior to your Insurance Adjuster arriving.
- Use upholstered furniture if it can be avoided.
- Wipe or attempt to wash walls, ceilings or other absorbent surfaces. Even touching some surfaces can set stains though oils in your skin.
- Send smoked clothing items to an ordinary dry cleaner. Improper cleaning may set smoke odor and stains.
- Try to deodorize using aerosol sprays. They are not formulated to work on fire odor and do not duplicate the conditions under which the smoke was deposited, so they cannot get into all of the areas the odor is located.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANY OF OUR OFFICES AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU. WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN!

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