

## FIRE & SMOKE DAMAGE To-Do TIPS

*Blow off or brush-vacuum loose soot particles from upholstery, drapes and carpets.*

*Cover carpeted traffic areas with towels or old linens to prevent additional soiling.*

*Get furniture up on blocks or place tinfoil beneath them to prevent your carpet from staining.*

*Discard open food packages. The food could be contaminated. Itemize for insurance purposes.*

*Tape cheese cloth over intake and outlet air registers to capture any loose soot in the air. This is even more effective if the cheese cloth is damp.*

*If electrical services are off, clean out your freezer and refrigerator. Leave the doors propped open or place charcoal in the unit.*

*Send clothing with heavy smoke damage to a professional restoration cleaner rather than a dry cleaning company.*

*Clean Formica and chrome fixtures in the kitchen and bathroom to prevent permanent tarnishing. Wipe residue from porcelain bath fixtures to prevent etching.*

## FIRE & SMOKE DAMAGE **Do-Not-Do TIPS**

*Do not attempt to wash papered or flat painted walls without consulting a professional restoration company. Do not attempt to clean carpets or upholstered furniture.*

*Do not use electrical appliances that have been close to fire or water before having them checked.*

*Do not use ceiling fixtures if the ceiling is wet.*

*Do not touch anything. Soot or oil residue on your hands can permanently stain upholstery, walls and woodwork, causing further damage.*

## WATER DAMAGE To-Do TIPS

*Use refrigerant-type dehumidifiers if the inside temperature is above 60° F.*

*Use desiccant-type dehumidifiers if the inside temperature is below 60° F,*

*Use fans to circulate the air and assist drying.*

*Remove as much water as possible by mopping & blotting.*

*Wipe furniture dry. Place on blocks or tinfoil if the carpet is still wet (to prevent staining).*

*Prop up furniture cushions for even drying.*

*Lift drapes off carpet, loop through a plastic coat hanger and place on a drapery rod.*

*Remove wet area rugs or other loose floor coverings.*

*Open furniture drawers, closet doors and luggage to enhance drying.*

*Move photos, paintings and art objects to a safe, dry location.*

*Remove wet fabrics and dry them as soon as possible. Hang furs and leather goods to dry separately at room temperature. Spread out damp books to dry.*

*If damage occurs during a cool season, leave heat on; if summer, use an air conditioner if available.*

## WATER DAMAGE - **Do-Not-Do Tips**

*Do not use an ordinary household vacuum to remove water.*

*Do not use electrical appliances while on wet carpet or floors.*

*Do not go into rooms with standing water if the electricity is still on.*

*Do not lift tacked down carpet without professional help.*

*Do not wait to call for professional help. Damage from the water, bacteria, mold and mildew will begin within a few hours.*

# After the Fire Department leaves...

# A Guide to restoring your life after a fire or a flood.



(503)543-5026

Compliments of Scappoose Fire District as a service to our community. *(All the information may not apply to your individual situation.)*

This information is provided to help you in this time of need. Keep in mind that even though the flames are out or the leak is fixed, the damage continues to spread.

Moisture, combined with smoke residue, creates acids which can continue to damage surfaces that are contaminated. Quick action can effectively minimize damages. However, you must remember that proper techniques should be followed to avoid causing further damage.

### **YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW....**

Why broken windows, doors, and holes in the roof? Due to temperatures well over 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, along with smoke and hot gases, ventilation must be done quickly to help reduce damage. Often walls must be forcibly opened to find the "hidden" fires. After the fire is out, some damage may appear unnecessary. However, without use of these fire fighting techniques, the structure could suffer total destruction by fire.

### PROPERTY PROTECTION

#### FIRST STEP

After the fire department leaves, the structure becomes your responsibility. Remove all valuables if you cannot live in the house. You are responsible for securing doors and windows and other areas against unauthorized entry. A professional disaster restoration company may be able to secure doors, windows, and other areas for you. **It is recommended you not leave the structure until they arrive.**

### PROPERTY INSURANCE

If you have homeowner's or renter's insurance, contact your insurance agent or company as soon as possible. If you are renting or leasing the property, you should contact the owner or management company ASAP.

Your insurance adjuster will know what parts of the damage are insured. If you need help, a professional restoration company can be of great assistance. Most insurance policies mandate protection of property, both personal and real, from further damage. Do not neglect taking care of your property or the insurance company may deny a portion of your claim.

### IF YOU CANNOT LIVE IN THE HOUSE

Those individuals in need, who have experienced a disaster, may obtain assistance from the local American Red Cross. Here you can obtain clothing, lodging and other services. Consult the reference directory for the office nearest your location. Be sure to notify the Post Office, utilities, insurance agent and your mortgage company.

### CONSTRUCTION

If the building is structurally damaged and not habitable, a building inspector must be called. After the building inspection is completed, a permit must be obtained prior to making repairs. Contact your local city or county building inspector's office. Call **Directory Assistance** if you are unable to locate this number.

### UTILITIES INFORMATION

Often, the fire department will have the utility services in your home shut off or disconnected as a safety precaution and to prevent further damage. The procedures for re-establishing utility services are as follows:

ELECTRICITY An electrical contractor should check the wiring to be sure it is safe before the power can be turned back on. You may need a permit and ; to have an inspection before the power company can reconnect your service. Remember:

### **DO NOT OPERATE WET OR DAMP APPLIANCES!**

WATER This utility may be turned back on by the resident. Use caution because the fire may have damaged the plumbing, which may cause water damage when normal pressure returns to the system.

GAS **DO NOT** turn the gas back on. A gas company serviceman is available 24 hours a day to turn on the gas and re-light appliances for you. Call your gas company for service.

TELEPHONE Contact your telephone company business office.

### **Additional Resources**

Columbia River PUD: 503-397-1844  
NW Natural: 800-422-4012  
PG&E: 503-228-6322  
Western Electric: 503-429-3021

City of Scappoose: 503-543-7145  
Warren Water Assoc: 503-397-3280

America Red Cross (800) 733-2767  
Salvation Army (503)794-3200  
Social Security (800)772-3150  
Columbia County Mental Health:  
503-397-5211 or (866)866-1426  
Directory Assistance (800) 373-3411