



# After The Fire



## RETURNING TO NORMAL

The mission of SLOFD is to protect lives, property and the community from the destructive effects of fire, disasters or other life hazards by providing public education, incident prevention and emergency response services. This handout is to provide our citizens with useful information to aid in the adjustment and recovery period after a fire has occurred.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

In addition to smoke and fire damage, the Fire Department may cut holes in roofs or break doors and windows to allow trapped heat and smoke to escape. After the fire is out, it is the owner's responsibility to board up any holes to guard against damage caused by weather, theft or vandalism.



### IF YOUR PROPERTY IS INSURED:

- The first thing to do after a fire has occurred is contact your insurance company as soon as possible. If you are renting the property you should also contact the property owner. If you have difficulty contacting your insurance company you may contact a general contractor. (Refer to the Yellow Pages under Contractors-General or Fire & Water Damage Restoration.)
- To obtain a copy of the official fire incident report contact SLOFD at (805)781-7380.
- Retain all receipts for any funds expended that are directly related to your fire loss.
- Do not dispose of any damaged property until items have been inventoried.
- If your vehicle is damaged as a result of a structure fire, contact both your home and vehicle insurance companies.

### IF YOUR PROPERTY IS NOT INSURED:

- You may be eligible for casualty loss, contact your family attorney or the Internal Revenue Service for guidance.
- If you are not insured and need assistance the American Red Cross is available to assist families who have been displaced from their homes.

### To be filled out by SLOFD

Incident Commander \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Report Number \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY....911

San Luis Obispo Fire Department.....(805)781-7380  
 Station 1.....2160 Santa Barbara  
 Station 2.....136 N. Chorro  
 Station 3.....1280 Laurel Lane  
 Station 4.....1395 Madonna Road  
 Non-Emergency Dispatch....(805)781-7312

SLO CALFIRE.....(805)543-4244

French Hospital.....(805)543-5353  
 French ER.....(805)542-63477  
 Sierra Vista Hospital.....(805)546-7600  
 Sierra Vista ER.....(805)546-7650  
 San Luis Ambulance.....(805)543-2626

PG&E.....(800)743-5000  
 SoCalGas.....(800)427-2200

American Red Cross - SLO...(805)543-0696

SLO Animal Services.....(805)781-4400



San Luis Obispo Fire Department  
 2160 Santa Barbara Avenue  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
 (805)781-7380



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you need emergency assistance for food, clothing or lodging, contact the SLO American Red Cross.

### PETS

As soon as possible you should take your pet to a veterinarian to check for smoke damage or hidden burns.

### COUNSELING SUPPORT

After a fire you may experience anxious feelings, depression, difficulty concentrating, sadness, anger, fatigue, irrational fears and nightmares. These are common responses to a traumatic event such as a fire in your home. If you or your family members need support contact the American Red Cross or check locally for counseling services.

### FOOD & MEDICINE

Any food, beverage or medicine that has been exposed to heat or smoke should not be consumed. The potency of medicines can be altered by exposure to heat. Do not use canned goods when cans are bulging, dented or rusted. If there is any doubt about the quality of the food, dispose of it properly.



### MONEY

Handle burnt money as little as possible. Place each bill in plastic wrap. If money is half or more burnt, it is still OK. You can take it to your regional Federal Reserve Bank to get it replaced.

## CLEANING TIPS

If insured, contact your insurance company for assistance. If you are not insured here are some tips for removing soot and smoke from surfaces in your home.

- Thoroughly clean everything in your house. You can hire professionals by looking online for post-fire restoration companies for both water and fire damage.
- Vacuum all surfaces thoroughly.
- Replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) filters.
- When cleaning carpeting you should steam clean, shampoo and steam clean again. Multiple cleanings may be needed to remove stains and odor.
- Mattress cleaning and odor removal is a very difficult process. Companies that build or repair mattresses may be able to renovate your mattress.
- To remove smoke odor and soot from clothing try using a solution that consists of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of ammonia mixed with two gallons of water. (Wear rubber gloves) Rinse the clothing in vinegar.
- Do not use electrical appliances that have been exposed to fire and/or water damage until they have been checked by a qualified service technician.