

# After The Fire

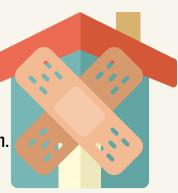


# **RETURNING TO NORMAL**

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 12160 S	Santa Barbara
Station 2	136 N. Chorro
Station 3128	0 Laurel Lane
Station 41395 M	Nadonna Road
Non-Emergency Dispatch(	805)781-7312

SLO CALFIRE(	805	543-424
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French Hospital	(805)543-5353
French ER	
Sierra Vista Hospital	
Sierra Vista ER	(805)546-7650
Can Luic Ambulanco	12051542 2626

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

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

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





#### **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.