



AFTER THE FIRE

YOUR GUIDE THROUGH FIRE
INCIDENT RECOVERY

SPRING, 2025



During a fire, your home and many of the things in your home may be damaged by flames, heat, smoke, and water. **Anything you want to keep or reuse will need to be carefully cleaned.**

To fight fires, firefighters may have broken windows and cut holes in the roof. This slows the fire's growth and gets rid of dark smoke that makes it difficult for firefighters to see. They may have cut holes in your walls to make sure the fire is completely out and not hidden there.

It is important to understand the risk to your safety and health even after the fire is out. **The soot and dirty water left behind may contain things that could make you sick.**

**BE VERY CAREFUL IF YOU GO INTO YOUR HOME AND
USE CAUTION WHILE TOUCHING FIRE-DAMAGED ITEMS**



**IF YOU PLAN TO REBUILD, NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO
CONSIDER SPRINKLERS**

Learn more about fire sprinklers at the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's website: www.homefiresprinkler.org



USE THIS SECTION TO TRACK IMPORTANT INCIDENT INFORMATION

INCIDENT ADDRESS:

INCIDENT DATE & TIME:

BFD REPORT NUMBER:

INVESTIGATING FIRE MARSHAL:

FIRE MARSHAL PHONE:

FIRE MARSHAL EMAIL:

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATOR:

L.E. INVESTIGATOR AGENCY:

L.E. INVESTIGATOR PHONE:

L.E. INVESTIGATOR EMAIL:

L.E. INVESTIGATOR AGENCY:

PLEASE NOTE:



**CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY RIGHT AWAY AND
ASK THEM WHAT TO DO FIRST**



**YOU WILL HAVE MORE TIME LATER TO TAKE INVENTORY
AND ASSESS DAMAGES**



**TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE INCIDENT REPORTS, CALL THE
BFD'S ADMIN AT 406-237-6262**



**ON THE BACK OF THIS BOOKLET, YOU'LL FIND PHONE
NUMBERS FOR CONTACTS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL**

SCENE SAFETY

READ BEFORE REENTERING THE STRUCTURE



STAY OUT OF THE STRUCTURE UNLESS THE BFD PROVIDES YOU AN ESCORT OR TURNS THE PROPERTY BACK OVER TO YOU.

EVEN THEN, IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOT DISTURB THE SCENE UNTIL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY APPROVES YOU DOING SO.



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING YOUR STRUCTURE AFTER THE PROPERTY HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO YOU.

PLEASE SEE THE CONTACT LIST ON THE BACK OF THIS BOOKLET FOR RESTORATION COMPANIES THAT WILL HELP SECURE YOUR PROPERTY.



IF YOU REENTER THE STRUCTURE, DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FIRE.

BE AWARE THAT THE AIR IS FULL OF PARTICLES AND HAZARDOUS FUMES. WATCH OUT, TOO, FOR UNSTABLE WALLS, ROOFS, CEILINGS, STAIRS, AND HOLES IN THE FLOOR.



UTILITIES ARE TYPICALLY TURNED OFF DURING AN INCIDENT. DO NOT TURN THEM BACK ON BY YOURSELF. IF THEY ARE DAMAGED INSIDE, A LICENSED CONTRACTOR WILL NEED TO REPAIR THEM. AFTER REPAIRED, THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT (406-657-7277) WILL NEED TO INSPECT THEM PRIOR TO THEM BEING TURNED BACK ON.

ANY DAMAGE TO UTILITIES OUTSIDE THE STRUCTURE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RESPECTIVE UTILITY COMPANY.

INSURANCE AND RECORDS REQUESTS



BEGIN SAVING RECEIPTS FOR ANY MONEY SPENT WHILE
RECOVERING FROM THIS INCIDENT SO THAT YOU CAN SHARE
THESE EXPENSES WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY AND PROVE
YOUR LOSSES WHILE FILING YOUR INCOME TAXES

INSURANCE COMPANY

INSURANCE AGENT

POLICY NUMBER

AGENT PHONE

PROPERTY VALUE

AGENT EMAIL

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

MANAGEMENT CO PHONE



TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH
YOUR INCIDENT, YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH
THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE FIRE
PREVENTION BUREAU

(406) 237-6262



WE'VE COMPILED A CHECKLIST OF ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU WHILE DECIDING WHAT YOU'LL WANT TO RETRIEVE FROM THE STRUCTURE.

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE REGARDING REPLACING MONEY AND SAVINGS BONDS.

- DRIVER'S LICENSE, AUTO REGISTRATION
- BANK BOOKS, STOCKS & BONDS
- INSURANCE POLICIES
- PURSES, WALLETS, CREDIT CARDS
- MEDICAL RECORDS, MEDICATIONS
- BIRTH, DEATH, & MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES
- MORTGAGE PAPERS, TITLES TO DEEDS
- MILITARY PAPERWORK
- PASSPORTS, IMMIGRATION PAPERWORK
- INCOME TAX RECORDS
- PET SUPPLIES, PET PAPERWORK
- CLOTHING
- WILLS, FAMILY PHOTOS
- LAPTOPS, COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES
- KEYS
- IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS, EMAILS
- WARRANTIES & IMPORTANT RECEIPTS
- MONEY, SAVINGS BONDS: SEE NEXT PAGE

WHILE ON SCENE, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL ASSIST YOU IN RETRIEVING NECESSARY ITEMS

REPLACING MONEY & SAVINGS BONDS

HANDLE BURNED PAPER MONEY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE

TO PRESERVE, PLACE BURNED PAPER MONEY IN A PLASTIC BAG

BURNED PAPER MONEY AND MELTED COINS MAY BE TAKEN TO YOUR REGIONAL FEDERAL RESERVE BANK TO REQUEST IT BE REPLACED OR...

TAKE **PAPER MONEY** TO THE POST OFFICE AND MAIL IT REGISTERED TO:

Department of Treasury Bureau of Engraving &
Printing Office of Currency Standards
MCD/OFM, Room #334 – PO Box 37048
Washington, DC 20013
1-866-575-2361



TAKE **MELTED COINS** TO THE POST OFFICE AND MAIL IT REGISTERED TO:

Superintendent U.S. Mint
PO Box 400
Philadelphia, PA 19105
1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468)



TO REPLACE U.S. SAVINGS BONDS THAT ARE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED, GET THE **DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY FORM (PD F 1048 I)** FROM YOUR BANK OR FROM WWW.USTREAS.GOV, THEN MAIL TO:

Department of Treasury
Bureau of the Public Debt
Savings Bonds Operations
PO Box 1328
Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328
1-800-553-2663



ASK AN ACCOUNTANT OR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) ABOUT SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE RECOVERING FROM FIRE LOSS



USEFUL CONTACTS

SHELTER & PROVISIONS ASSISTANCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS 800-272-6668

MONTANA RESCUE MISSION 406-259-6079

SALVATION ARMY 406-245-4659

UTILITIES

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY 888-467-2669

CITY OF BILLINGS PUBLIC UTILITIES (WATER) 406-657-8353

MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES 800-638-3278

HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT 406-252-0539

YELLOWSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 406-348-3411

CLEANING & RESTORATION

ALPHA OMEGA DISASTER RESTORATION 406-686-0708 / 406-628-0178

AMERICLEAN 406-256-9111

BIG SKY DISASTER 406-259-4460

BILLINGS CARPET/RESTORATION 406-259-3333

FAITHFUL RESTORATION 406-672-3200

PAUL DAVIS RESTORATION 406-606-5829 / 406-671-1594

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESTORATION 406-698-9898

SERV PRO 406-252-0859

SERVICE MASTER 406-248-6555