



LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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What to Do After a Fire

Dear Community Resident,

We know that this is a difficult time for you and that it may be hard to think of all that needs to be done in the aftermath of a fire. Accompanying this letter is a helpful booklet by the U.S. Fire Administration entitled "*After the Fire.*" We encourage you to read it over carefully. Right now, what is important is that your immediate needs are being met. We have put together this simple checklist which one of our officers will go over with you.

- If you cannot return to your residence and have **no place to stay**, please let us know and we will contact the American Red Cross for you.
- If you will be staying at another location, be sure to **remove any valuables from the premises** and ask your neighbors to **keep an eye out for looters** and the possible rekindling of the fire.
- **Call your insurance company as soon as possible.** They will guide you through what you need to do in filing a claim and getting additional assistance.
- If you cannot contact your insurance company, we suggest **contacting a board-up service** to cover any broken doors, windows or other open areas. Make sure the service you use is licensed, bonded and insured. Many times representatives of board-up services show up at the scene of a fire. They are not affiliated with the fire department and please do not feel pressured into signing with one of them.
- If you need a **copy of the fire report**, please call our District Administration Center and we will be happy to supply you with one.
- **Do not attempt to clean up** until after a representative from your insurance company has seen and assessed the damage.
- Because of the fire, **utilities may have been shut off**. Contact the proper utility companies to arrange to have your service checked out and restored.
- If you have **pets**, be aware of the danger of having them exposed to smoke or contaminants.
- Be aware of possible **food and medicine contamination** resulting from the fire.
- Begin **saving receipts** for any money that you spend related to fire loss. The receipts may be needed later by the insurance company to prove any losses.
- If you or a family member is having difficulty coping with what took place with the fire,

we would encourage you to speak with our **fire chaplain**.