

# **After the FIRE**

## **If FIRE claims you as a victim**

If insured, contact your insurance company as soon as possible.

If you don't have insurance, here are some helpful ideas.

## **Cleaning After the Fire**

### **Floors, Walls, ect...**

Vacuum all surfaces, (steam cleaning with shampoo works well) carpet may need to be replaced. It is very difficult to clean ash from carpets. The smoke smell is also hard to remove. Hardwood and tile type floors can usually be mopped and refinished.

Walls can be cleaned by wiping and scrubbing with cleaning solutions available at any hardware store. Once clean, allow to fully dry before painting. Use a primer/sealer and paint for best results. Wallpapered areas usually can not be salvaged and will need to be replaced.

Change all furnace/air conditioner filters before using them. It is recommended that a heating/cooling company check the units for damage and clean duct work before using them.

### **Clothing and Materials**

Mattresses can be taken outside in the sun to be aired out if not damaged.

Pillows, stuffed animals, ect. will retain a smoke odor and will usually have to be replaced.

Clothes can be washed (in bleach if applicable) heavily and may be professionally cleaned.

### **Removing Odors**

Fire will leave a smoke odor that is hard to remove. Aside from cleaning everything in the house, room deodorizers can be installed to help absorb the odors. Mildew may occur and produce odors. Use chlorine bleach and warm water to remove.

## **Medications and Food**

All food and medications exposed to a fire should be thrown away.

## **Securing Valuables**

In the event of any fire, try to locate the following items after fire is out:

All legal documents, Medications, Money and Credit cards, Jewelry and eye glasses ect...

The items above should be taken with you if you can not secure your home and you must leave.

## **Other Important Contacts**

### **Utilities**

The Fire Department may have to disconnect your utilities for safety purposes. The utility company for each will have to reconnect the service. Service will not always be restored the same day, depending on the amount of damage.

### **Support Services**

Multiple emotions are common after a fire and should be monitored closely. Exercise and other stress relieving activities are helpful. The American Red Cross offers counseling if needed. They also will provide assistance for food, clothing, ect..

American Red Cross (304) 340-3650

Salvation Army (304) 343-4548

### **Utilities (for restoring service)**

Mountaineer Gas (304) 347-0500

Appalachian Power Co. (800) 982-4237

West Virginia American Water (304) 345-8660

Lincoln Public Service District 756-2141

Verizon (800)275-2355

Suddenlink (800) 972-5757