

After The Fire



Brook Park Fire Department

A Note From The Chief

A few years back, when I was a line officer, I helped put out a major fire at my mother's house which was also my childhood home. It was the first time in my career that I felt what it was like to be on the other end of a fire, and I know what you are experiencing. I am happy to say that my Mom is back into her beautifully restored home. Having lived through the experience of a house fire, I may be able to answer questions or concerns that may come up. Please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ramach



Restoration Companies (In Alphabetical Order)

AMERICAN INCORPORATED

216-221-5200

LAKEWOOD

FARROW GROUP

216-561-2355

CLEVELAND

G.A. HOMMEL CONTRACTORS

440-888-3373

PARMA HTS

NORTH SHORE RENOVATIONS

216-676-4700

BROOK PARK

PLATINUM RESTORATION

440-327-0699

ELYRIA

ROTH CONSTRUCTION

216-267-8330

CLEVELAND

1-800-BOARD-UP

216-262-7387

CLEVELAND

Having your house catch on fire is a very emotional event. The damage to your home, the loss of personal items, the many questions as to what to do next can be overwhelming. The Brook Park Fire Department has developed this Pamphlet to assist you on what steps to take **After The Fire...**

Contact Your Insurance Company

Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to start the process. All insurance companies have a 24/7 emergency contact number. Most companies send an adjuster right out, but depending on what time the fire occurs, this could be hours or possibly the next day. Once the adjuster is on the scene he/she will be able to help answer most of your questions. Remember, although this may be your first fire, the insurance adjuster does this every day.

Where Will Your Family Stay?

Because of all the toxins that can be emitted in a fire in the modern age of plastic and composites, we recommend that your family find alternative housing. Some people choose to stay with family, others will choose a hotel. The Brook Park Fire Department has teamed up with local resident-type hotels who offer a free first night stay for anyone displaced after a fire. We can provide you with a voucher

to present to participating hotels to cover your first night's stay. After the first night, your insurance company will usually pickup the cost for this on a short term basis. The typical long term solution is the renting of a house or apartment while your home is being restored.

Who Will Secure My House?

In order to put a fire out, the fire department may have to break out windows or cut holes in your roof. Many times fire causes structural damage that exposes your house to the elements. After the fire, your house will have to be secured. There are many restoration companies that do this type of work. It is up to you to choose a company. Many times a decision must be made before your insurance adjuster is able to arrive on the scene. A list of local restoration companies is provided at the end of this pamphlet. Restoration companies have 24/7 response telephone numbers and usually arrive in a timely fashion to start the process. The company you pick to do the "board up" DOES NOT have to be the company that does your restoration work. We suggest you wait until you talk to your insurance company before you sign a contract for restoration work. Although it is up to the home owner to pick the company, some insurance companies give extra guaran-

ties if you choose one of their preferred companies.

When Can I Move Back?

That depends on how much fire and smoke damage there is. But unless it is a very minor fire, plan on 4 to 8 months. It is often more time consuming to restore a house after a fire then it was to build it new.

Other Important Considerations

Your insurance company will usually send out 2 adjusters, one for the structure and one for the contents. Do not throw anything away until your contents adjuster has looked at it. Keep receipts of everything for later reconciliation with your insurance company. As hard as it is to see your home devastated by a fire, it is important to remember that things can be replaced and rebuilt. Your insurance company and your restoration company will work with you to get you back into your home.

Brook Park Fire Department

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