

Home Emergency Tips

Helpful tips on what to do until help arrives.

FIRE AND SMOKE DAMAGE:

DO:

- Limit movement in the home to prevent soot particles from being imbedded into upholstery and carpets
- Keep hands clean. Soot on hands can further spoil upholstery, walls, and woodwork
- Blow or brush vacuum loose soot particles from upholstery, drapes, and carpets
- Place old towels or old linens on rugs, upholstery, and carpet traffic areas.
- If electricity is off, empty freezer and refrigerator completely and prop doors open
- Clean and protect chrome on kitchen and bathroom faucets, trim and appliances with a light coating of Vaseline or oil.
- Wash house plants on both sides of leaves
- Change HVAC filter
- Tape double layers of cheesecloth over air registers

DON'T:

- Attempt to wash any walls or painted surfaces without first contacting your SERVPRO Professional
- Attempt to shampoo carpet or upholstered furniture without first consulting your SERVPRO Professional
- Attempt to clean any electrical appliances, TV sets, radios, etc that may have been close to fire, heat or water without first consulting an authorized repair service
- Use any canned or packaged food or beverages that may have been stored close to fire, heat or water. (They may be contaminated.)
- Turn on ceiling fixtures if ceiling is wet. Wiring may be wet or damaged.
- Send garments to ordinary dry cleaner. Improper cleaning may set smoke odor.

VANDALISM DAMAGE:

DO:

- Hose or wash egg damage from building exterior as soon as possible.
- Blot freshly spilled food from carpets and fabrics with a dampened cloth or sponge (but don't over wet). Scrape and blot (don't rub: it may damage fibers)
- Vacuum glass particles from carpets and upholstery
- Save containers, which reveal the composition of spilled inks, cosmetics and paints.

DON'T:

- Attempt to remove ink, paint or cosmetic stains
- Operate damaged laps or appliances
- Discard wood chips, broken pieces from furniture, porcelain or other art objects

HARMFUL WASTE

(Sewage, Blood borne Pathogens, Etc.):

DO:

- Stay out of affected areas
- Call emergency service personnel if the situation is life threatening
- Treat all bodily fluids as if they are contaminated
- Turn off the HVAC system if there is a sewage damage

DON'T:

- Attempt clean up of any kind.
- Touch or handle items that might be contaminated with bodily fluids.
- Eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses in affected areas

If exposed to harmful waste, OSHA recommends a post-exposure medical evaluation. Consult your local health department or physician.

WATER DAMAGE:

DO:

- Remove as much excess water as possible by mopping and blotting
- Wipe excess water from wood furniture after removal of laps and table top items
- Remove and prop wet upholstery and pillow cushions for even drying
- Place aluminum foil or wood blocks between furniture legs and wet carpeting
- Turn air conditioning on for maximum drying in summer
- Oriental rugs or other colored rugs from wet wall-to-wall carpeting.
- Remove valuable paintings and art objects to a safe, dry place.
- Open and place luggage, in sunlight to dry, if possible.
- Gather loose items, toys, etc. from floors.

DON'T:

- Leave wet fabrics in place; dry as soon as possible. Hang furs and leather goods to dry separately at room temperature
- Leave books, magazines, or other colored items on wet carpets or floors
- Use your household vacuum to remove water
- Use TV or other household appliances while standing on wet carpets or floors, especially not on wet concrete floors.
- Turn on ceiling fixtures if ceiling is wet, and keep out of rooms where ceilings are sagging from retained water.



of The Southtowns

Fire & Water—Cleanup & Restoration

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