

What to Expect

A fire in a home, whether you live in an apartment, a single family, or multifamily home, can cause serious damage. The building and many of your belongings may be badly damaged by the flames, heat, smoke and water.

You will find that things the fire did not burn up are now ruined by smoke and soggy with water used to put out the flames. Anything you want to save or re-use will need to be cleaned carefully.

Firefighters may have cut holes in the walls or roof to look for hidden flames or to let out heat and smoke. Cleanup will take time and patience.



Use Caution

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. The structure itself may be weakened and damaged by the fire or water used to put the fire out and could collapse.

Be very careful if you go into your home. Ask the advice of the fire department, local building official, your insurance agent and restoration specialists before starting to clean or make repairs.

If you can't live in the house

For individuals in need, who have experienced a fire or other disaster, help may be available from the local Red Cross. After contacting the Red Cross, they may provide you with food, clothing, lodging and other services. A Red Cross Disaster specialist will be able to assist you day or night.

The number to call is 1-888-680-1455

24/7, 365 days a year

You will also need to think about the following:

Construction: If the building is structurally damaged to the point that you can not live in it, a building inspector will be called. After the building inspection is completed, a permit must be obtained prior to making repairs.

Building Department 541-774-2350

Utilities: These will most likely be shut off or disconnected as a safety precaution and also to prevent further damage to the structure and its contents.

Medford Public Works 541-774-2140

Electrical: You'll need to contact an electrical inspector to check the wiring before it is safe to be reconnected.

Pacific Power & Light 1-888-221-7070

Water: You may be able to turn the water back on but be cautious, the fire may have caused damage to the plumbing.

Medford Water Commission 541-774-2430

Natural Gas: Do not turn the gas back on.

Avista Natural Gas 1-800-727-9170

Telephone:

Century Link 1-866-274-6621 or contact your cell phone provider.

Important Documents

Documents are very important to your well being and can be damaged or destroyed as a result of a fire or other disaster. The following list of documents could help speed up the process of recovering from a disaster.

- Birth Certificates
- Citizenship Papers
- Drivers License
- Passports
- Social Security/Medicare Cards
- Insurance Policies
- Automobile Registration
- Automobile Title
- Medical Records & Medications

Additional items you'll want to have replaced.

- Bankbooks (Checking and Savings)
- Military Discharge Papers
- Mortgage Papers
- Divorce Papers
- Credit Cards
- Titles to Deeds
- Stocks and Bonds
- Wills
- Warranties
- Income Tax Records
- Death and/or Marriage Certificates

Checklist for next steps

- Contact your local disaster relief services, such as the Red Cross. They will help you find a place to stay for awhile and find food, medicines, and other important things.
- If you are insured, contact your insurance company. Ask what you should do to keep your home safe until it is repaired. Ask if they want you to make a list of items that were lost or damaged in the fire.
- Check with the Fire Department to see if your home is safe to enter. It may appear solid but could be dangerous.
- Check with the Fire Department about whether your utilities are safe to use. DO NOT attempt to turn them back on by yourself.
- Contact your landlord or mortgage company about the fire.
- If you can, try to locate valuable documents and records.
- If you leave your home, call the Police Department and let them know the home will be vacant.
- Save all receipts for money you have to spend related to the fire loss. Your insurance company may require them and you may need them to prove any losses claimed on your income tax report.
- Check with an accountant or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) about special benefits for people recovering from a fire loss.

MEDFORD FIRE-RESCUE
541-774-2300

Others you may want to notify in the event of a fire.

- Family members
- Child (s) school or daycare, especially if the child will be absent from school, or if there is trauma as a result of the incident
- Employers or employees who may be expecting you at work
- Post office to re-route your mail if you have to move out for any length of time
- Newspapers to cancel or to re-route your subscription
- Garbage collection may need to be cancelled or re-routed.

INFORMATION & NOTES

An additional list of resources is available upon request. You can also visit our website at: www.medfordfirerescue.org

AFTER THE FIRE



Medford Fire-Rescue

**200 S. Ivy Street, Room #180
Medford, OR 97501**

Ph. (541) 774-2300

Fax (541) 774-2514

www.medfordfirerescue.org