

WHERE TO START

A Fire will change your life in many ways and knowing where to begin and who can help you is important. The Ocean City Fire Department hopes you find this information helpful

After experiencing a residential fire, you may find yourself emotionally drained and a little scared. The first time you see your home and belongings - possibly damaged by water and smoke - the emotional toll can be significant. Once the smoke clears, the fire engines have left, and the neighbors have gone back inside, the process of recovering from this event will begin.

NEXT STEPS

- Step 1 — Housing
- Step 2 — Pets
- Step 3 — Insurance
- Step 4 — Displacement
- Step 5 — Secure Your Home
- Step 6 — Returning Home

RECORDS REQUEST

The release of fire reports and related information is limited to "Parties in Interest," or those named in the report (i.e. owners, occupants, insurance representatives of owners/occupants, etc.). Three (3) types of reports, relating to the fire investigation, may be generated

- Insurance Summary Report
- Investigative Report
- NFIRS Report

Consult the OCMD Fire Marshals website for additional details.

AFTER THE FIRE

Date of the Fire: _____

Time of the Fire: _____

Location of the fire: _____

Fire incident report #: _____

Fire Investigator: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Insurance Phone # _____

Insurance Policy #: _____

Vehicle Identification # (Vin) for damaged

cars, trucks, boats, and motorcycles:

RESOURCES

- Town of Ocean City: (410) 289-8221
- OCPD (non-emergency) (410) 723-6610
- OC Fire Marshal (410) 289-8780
- US Postal Office (OCMD) (410) 524-7611
- Delmarva Power: 1-800-375-7117
- American Red Cross: 1-800-733-2767
- Humane Society (410) 213-0146
- Worcester County Schools (410) 632-5000

AFTER THE FIRE



A Guide To Help You Through The First Few Hours



Presented by:
Ocean City Fire Department
Ocean City Fire Marshal Office

STEP 1 — HOUSING

If the fire was severe enough to make your residence uninhabitable, one of the first things to consider is finding temporary housing. You will find that things not damaged by the fire may still be ruined by smoke and may have been damaged by water. Anything you want to save or reuse will need to be carefully and thoroughly cleaned.

OCFD can arrange to have the American Red Cross come to your home after the fire and they may assist you with the following needs:

- Temporary Housing
- Food
- Medicine
- Eyeglasses
- Clothing
- Other Essentials

NOTIFY THESE PEOPLE ASAP OF YOUR RELOCATION:

- Insurance Company
- Family & Friends
- Employer
- Children's School
- Post Office
- Delivery Services
- Public Safety Depts.
- Utility Companies

STEP 2 — PETS

If you have pets, find and comfort them. Handle them carefully, as scared animals may bite or scratch. If you have pets or livestock that require shelter in the event you are unable to stay in your residence, there are resources available.

The Humane Society may provide emergency temporary shelter in cases such as these.

STEP 3 — INSURANCE

IF YOU HAVE INSURANCE:

- Notify your insurance agent immediately.
- Ask your agent what to do about the immediate needs of the dwelling, such as covering doors, windows, and other exposed areas, and pumping out water.
- Coordinate with the insurance company before contracting for any service.
- Ask your agent what actions are required of you.
- Take photos of the damage, if possible without endangering yourself or causing further damage.
- Do not throw away any damaged goods until after an inventory is made and all damages are taken into consideration in developing your insurance claim.
- Beginning immediately save receipts for any money you spend as these receipts are important for showing the insurance company what money you have spent related to your fire loss and for verifying losses claimed on your income taxes.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INSURANCE:

- If you are not insured, try contacting private organizations for aid and assistance. Renters are not usually covered by their landlord's policy and renters are usually responsible for providing insurance coverage for their own personal belongings.
- Vet any door-to-door contractors that offer their services. Check that they are licensed and insured.

STEP 4 — DISPLACEMENT

Remember the creature comforts and essentials that may be needed for your temporary placement.

- People & Pets
- Papers, Phone numbers & important documents
- Prescriptions, medications, & eye glasses
- Pictures & irreplaceable memorabilia
- Personal Computers/tables, phones & chargers
- Credit/ATM Cards & cash

STEP 5 — SECURE YOUR HOME

Make sure your property is secure and your residence is protected from the elements, the threat of robbery, or vandalism. Be cautious once it is safe to enter the damaged site.

A fire scene contains many hazards that you may not see. Roofs, floors, and ceilings may have sustained more damage than they appear and could collapse after the fire is extinguished.

STEP 6 — RETURNING HOME

Professional fire and water damage restoration businesses may be the best source for cleaning and restoring your personal belongings.

For more details visit:

<https://oceancitymd.gov/oc/departments/fire/fire-marshal-office/>