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## Emergency Tips for Fire & Smoke Damage

(Compiled by members and staff of the National Institute for Disaster Restoration)

### DO...

- Clean and protect chrome trim on faucets and other brightwork by washing with detergent and applying a coating of Vaseline or oil.
- Blow off or brush-vacuum loose smoke particles from upholstery, draperies or carpeting.
- Open windows for ventilation if weather permits.
- Empty refrigerators and freezers if electricity is off and prop doors open with a rolled towel or newspaper to allow air circulation.
- Pour antifreeze in toilet bowls, tanks, sink and tub drains to prevent freeze damage if heat is off in winter.
- Call a plumber to drain and blow out all water lines if heat is off in winter.
- Remove pets to a clean environment if heavy fire residues are present.
- Send a sample of a group of garments for cleaning and deodorization in order to observe the results.
- Retain a contractor to board up open windows, roofs, or other penetrations in order to prevent additional damage.

### DO NOT...

- Wipe or attempt to wash fire residues from walls, ceilings or other absorbent surfaces.
- Use carpeting or upholstered furniture impacted by heavy smoke residues or debris.
- Use food items or canned goods exposed to heat.
- Turn on computers, TVs, stereos or electrical appliances until they have been cleaned and checked.

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