

What to Do After a House Fire

These steps can help you and your family recover after a house fire.

After suffering a house fire, it might be difficult to determine what to do next. These steps will help you get back on your feet:

1. **Find a safe place to stay.** No matter the amount of damage, you will not likely be able stay in your own home. If staying with friends or family is not an option, talk to your local disaster relief agency, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army. These organizations will help you find a safe place to stay temporarily.
2. **Contact your insurance agent.** Your insurance agent should also be able to help you secure your property and offer recommendations for cleaning up or restoring salvageable items. See attached list of cleaning and board up companies.
3. **Take care of your pets.** **Always have your pets checked by a veterinarian after a fire.** Your pet's lungs can be damaged by smoke and, in addition, burns can hide under fur.
4. **Take care of your family's mental health.** Disasters can make it difficult to cope. This is particularly true of children. Be patient with yourself as you work through any stress caused by the fire. If you or others in your family are having difficulty coping, seek support.
5. **Protect your home.** Even though your home sustained damages and you are likely unable to stay there, you as the owner still need to protect it as much as possible from both weather and unlawful entry. Below you will find a list of possible businesses that can help with this process.

PAULDAVIS
Nick Langhorst
Project Manager/Estimator
 M: 402.276.6506 COL: 402.564.0220
 TF: 800.472.2602 NOR: 402.371.9381
24/7/365 RESPONSE
 E: nick.langhorst@pauldavis.com
 www.northern-nebraska.pauldavis.com
Paul Davis Restoration
 2152 3rd Avenue • Columbus, NE 68601
 600 W. Omaha Avenue • Norfolk, NE 68701


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 PO Box 683
 NORFOLK, NE 68702-0683
 Phone: 402/379-0357
 Fax: 402/644-2168
 servicemaster@telebeep.com
 servicemastercleanofnorfolk.com

Carpets/Rugs
 Disaster Restoration
 Fire/Water/Smoke Restoration
 General Housewide
 Sanitizing
 Packout/Content Cleaning
 Walls
 Fabric/Carpet Protector
 Trauma/Vandalism Cleanup
 Upholstered Furniture
 Resilient Floors
 Window Cleaning
 Emergency Restoration Services
 24 Hour Emergency Services

OR

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 Owner
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 Email: awolfe@servpronorfolkne.com
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