

## **AFTER THE FIRE**

The following checklist serves as a quick reference and guide for you to follow immediately after a fire strikes:

- American Red Cross, if you need temporary housing, food and medication is available upon request.
- If you are insured, immediately contact your insurance company for detailed instructions on protecting the property, conducting inventory and contacting a fire damage restoration company. If you are not insured, try contacting private organizations for aid and assistance.
- Check with the fire department to make sure your residence is safe to enter. Be watchful of any structural damage caused by the fire.
- The fire department should see that utilities are either safe to use or are disconnected before they leave the site. DO NOT attempt to reconnect utilities yourself.
- Conduct an inventory of damaged property and items. Do not throw away any damaged goods until after an inventory is made.
- Try to locate valuable documents and records. Refer to information on contacts and the replacement process provided in this document.
- If you leave your home, contact the local police department to let them know that the site will be unoccupied.
- Begin saving receipts for any money you spend related to fire loss. The receipts may be needed later by the insurance company and for verifying losses claimed on income tax.
- Notify your mortgage company of the fire.
- Check with an accountant or the Internal Revenue Service about special benefits for people recovering from loss.