

# HOUSE FIRE CHECKLIST

When your home or business has a fire, it's hard to know what to do next.

*Use this house fire checklist to guide you during this difficult time.*



## WHAT TO DO AFTER A FIRE

- ☐ Get permission from fire department official to re-enter the fire-damaged structure.
- ☐ Contact family members and loved ones to inform them of the accident.
- ☐ Call all utility providers (electric, gas, water) and inform them of the fire and discuss need for emergency shut-off service.
- ☐ Call your homeowners insurance company to begin the claim process.
- ☐ Call Rainbow International or other local service provider and make arrangements for fire remediation services.
- ☐ Understand and acknowledge the specifics of the "fire report" and make sure you get a copy.
- ☐ Document all fire damage. Take photographs and detailed notes of damage to property.
- ☐ Retrieve valuable belongings and irreplaceable heirlooms before you leave the property.
- ☐ Contact local police and advise them if your home will be vacant. Notify your children's school, the post office, and any organization you've borrowed from.
- ☐ Start the process of replacing important documents lost in the fire, such as licenses, passports, birth certificates, etc.
- ☐ Fires can be traumatic for your entire family. Take care of everyone's emotional needs and schedule counseling, if necessary.
- ☐ For disaster relief, contact your local Red Cross and Salvation Army.
- ☐ If your home was damaged from a wildfire, you may be able to apply for assistance through FEMA.



## WHAT NOT TO DO AFTER A FIRE

1. **Do not** enter your home until you're given permission that it is safe.
2. **Do not** turn on gas, water or electric utilities until a professional has deemed them safe.
3. If your car is burned, **do not** start or move it.
4. **Do not** try to clean any of the smoke or soot damage yourself. Leave that to professionals with proper safety equipment and experience.

Rainbow International knows this is a difficult time and is here to help with state-of-the art restoration services to help get you back to pre-loss condition.

