

Beyond the  
**FIRE...**

Dealing with  
Damage from  
**SMOKE,  
SOOT  
&  
ODORS!**

Continued Damage After the Fire

Little Known Truths About Soot

Fire and Water DO Mix

After the Fire Checklist

5 Threats; 1 Call



**TRI STATE RESTORATIONS**

*TURNING DISASTER INTO PEACE OF MIND®*

WATER MOLD FIRE SEWAGE EMERGENCY

(866) 818-1949



# Did You Know?

Fires in both residential dwellings and commercial spaces can cause massive property, financial and emotional losses for many reasons long after the fire has been extinguished.

The obvious suspects are smoke and soot causing breathing difficulties, discoloration and casting a layer of damaging chemicals over everything they touch.

A little less expected is odor! After a fire the odor caused by the soot can be strong and tenacious. It takes a bit more than a scented candle or an air freshener to truly get rid of soot odors after a fire.

As much as we know and see water being used to put out fires, we tend to forget everywhere the fire is doused is now soaking wet! That means potential water damage and, if not mitigated properly, damage from mold and mildew as well... and now you know!

## Continued Damage After the Fire



Smoke



Soot



Odor



Water



Mold

# Little Known Truths About Soot



Because of soot, fires can continue to destroy your home or office well after the fire is put out. Response time is a critical factor in how well fire and soot damage can be removed and reversed.

## **Soot can be highly acidic.**

Quick removal is essential to avoid odors, preserve surfaces and save possessions.

## **Soot can also be very oily.**

It is nearly impossible to fully remove all traces without professional tools and methods.

## **Soot is difficult to remove.**

Possessions covered or affected by soot can easily stain or corrode, making them unsalvageable.

# Fire and Water DO Mix

Often, fire brings its tag team partner, water, to do much more insidious damage than fire alone. Here are a few ways fire and water DO mix to cause potential property and financial loss.

## Water Hoses and Extinguishers

That's right. The very devices used to put out a fire are the biggest causes of water damage.

Water hoses pump water directly onto whatever is on fire and not all fire extinguishers use foam - some are "water fire extinguishers!" The amount of water used is not monitored and everything is soaked until the fire is out. This can lead to a heavy dousing and even light flooding as a direct result of putting the fire out.

## Faucet and Pipe Leaks

The extreme heat from a fire can melt and/or break faucets and plumbing causing leaks. Though this is typically much less than from a water hose, it can still cause water damage or much worse - slip passed your notice and cause long-term moisture issues.

## Storms and Heavy Rain

Some fires are caused by lightning. In these cases fire and water work in tandem to burn holes in roofs and walls for water to pour through into your home or office. Despite what many think, rain is often not a significant or consistent enough source of water to douse flames.

Once water mixes with soot, household dirt, or other contaminants from severe weather flooding, it is classified as Category 3: Black Water. That means it can contain pathogens, silt, pesticides, chemicals, and dangerous debris like broken glass and tree limbs.



# After the Fire Checklist

1



TRI STATE RESTORATIONS  
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## CALL TRI STATE RESTORATIONS

We have certified professional technicians to provide answers and restoration of your property, furnishings, or equipment after a fire. Only skilled fire restoration professionals like Tri State Restorations can help you get back to a "pre-loss" condition in a timely manner.

2



## CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE

You've called Tri State Restorations to prevent the damage from getting worse. We'll help you navigate the tricky waters of your insurance coverage. Take inventory of damaged goods before discarding anything and save receipts for money spent related to the fire loss.

3



## AVOID FALLING STRUTURAL COMPONENTS

Although fire authorities may allow you to enter the structure, the area still could be hazardous. Look carefully for structural damage that may be unstable, like charred beams and sagging ceilings.

# After the Fire Checklist

4



## STAY AWAY FROM ELECTRICAL SHOCK HAZARDS

Check for but do not touch exposed wiring. Also, be careful of damage inside walls and electrical lines not normally visible.

5



## KEEP PEOPLE WITH ALLERGIES OUT

People with severe allergies or respiratory problems should stay out of the area until initial cleanup is complete. Tri State Restorations ventilation procedures will remove soot residues and other airborne microbials.

6



## WIPE DOWN DURABLE SURFACES

Smokeresiduescombinewithhumiditytoform acids that can stain grout, paint, bath fixtures, countertopsandmanyappliances.Immediate clean up of durable surfaces with household cleaners can dramatically limit your loss.

# Five Threats; ONE Call.

Just one fire can put you, your property and possessions at risk of physical damage or serious health concerns from five different threats!

1. Smoke
2. Soot
3. Odor
4. Water
5. Mold

Professional restoration is recommended!

As you can see, thorough cleanup is a serious matter and should be handled by knowledgeable experts to avoid exposure and salvage as much property and as many possessions as possible. Our technicians are specialists trained and certified to Turn Disaster into Peace of Mind for you!

The hazards of fire, smoke and soot are detailed in the informative Tri State Restorations blog at: [tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/fire](http://tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/fire)

For the full scoop on the potential dangers and health risks that water and mold damage present, check out the numerous helpful articles on the Tri State Restorations blog at:

[tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/water](http://tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/water)  
[tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/mold](http://tristaterestores.com/blog/categories/mold)

