Fire Damage Recovery Guide

Use this guide to organize the next decisions after a fire: safe access, recovery contacts, assessment, authorized work, and the eventual rebuild.

Safety and contacts

- Follow fire and building officials’ instructions before entering or using the property.
- Record emergency, property, utility, insurer, and recovery-provider contacts.
- Identify who can authorize temporary protection and specialist assessment.

Assessment and records

- Document affected areas from a safe location.
- Collect available reports and record work already performed.
- Ask the responsible specialists to identify structural, system, smoke, and water concerns.
- Keep claim correspondence and construction authorization records distinct.

Reconstruction planning

- Separate cleaning or remediation, demolition, structural work, systems, and finishes.
- Identify design, approval, and inspection responsibilities.
- List optional upgrades separately from the damage repair scope.
- Agree on access, phasing, selections, changes, and closeout requirements.

Primary references

U.S. Fire Administration: After the Fire

AmeriConstruction | North Texas construction planning resources. Confirm requirements for your property and proposed work.