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If you recall your science classes, youâ€™ll know fire is considered one of natureâ€™s most potent forces. Handle it right and you can cook your own food and get plenty of warmth. Handle it improperly and fire can burn everything around you, leaving you with a charred mess.

A fire that just reduced your home into a smoldering wreck can give you more than heartburn. But, if you and your loved ones managed to escape it unscathed, thatâ€™s a good thing since you still have each other. Your lives are anything but finished, the most challenging part comes after the fire: going through the emotional process of restoring whatâ€™s left. Recovering from damage caused by fire is something you ought to handle slowly yet precisely, but here are some things you can do to avoid further incidents.

First, make sure you shut off any electricity within the vicinity. This should keep any electrical sparks from occurring and starting another fire. Write down any signs of damage and take pictures whenever you can so your insurance company can check them out later.

Next, assess your home to see if itâ€™s safe enough to enter. Walk around your homeâ€™s perimeter to look for any possibly unstable structure. The last thing youâ€™d want is your house coming down on you as you check whatâ€™s left of it. If possible, open any windows and doors from outside to let the fumes escape.

Once youâ€™re inside, check if the ceilings or floors show signs of imminent collapse. Assuming itâ€™s indeed safe to enter, wear goggles, a mask, gloves and boots to protect yourself from any fire damage, dangerous material, or toxic fumes. Remove any draperies or curtains from the walls if there are any; they work as excellent fuel for small embers to erupt back to full-blown fires, use a dust mop to take soot off the walls directly and let them dry.

If you have any salvageable furniture, apply a solvent to treat any smoke damage on it. Make sure the furniture has no burning embers whatsoever and that itâ€™s completely cooled down. You can take it outside if you can, but you may need extra muscle for moving cabinets, tables, and beds.

If you can actually afford it, itâ€™s more practical for you to hire a restoration services company to help you bring your home back to what it was before. You can ask your friends or loved ones if they know any, or you can search online for companies within your vicinity. You can read more about fire damage restoration at [About.com](#) and [eHow.com](#).

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