



## After the Fire

### Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why are windows broken or holes cut in the roof?**
  - As a fire burns, it moves upward then outward. Breaking the windows and/or cutting holes in the roof (called ventilation) slows the damaging outward movement, helps remove blinding smoke that obscures the actual fire, and enables firefighters to fight the fire more efficiently. The result of this action is less damage to the structure in the long run.
- **Why are holes cut in walls?**
  - This is done so that the fire department is absolutely sure that the fire is completely out, and that there is no fire inside the walls or other hidden places.
- **Will I receive a bill from the fire department?**
  - Residents within the City of Owatonna do not receive a bill from the fire department. This is a service provided by the City of Owatonna.
  - Residents living within the townships covered by the Rural Fire Association will receive a bill from the Association. This should be turned in to your insurance company.
- **Why did it take so long for firefighters to take action when they arrived?**
  - The Fire Commander must comply with safety policies and procedures to assure the safety of our firefighters. OSHA requires that for every two firefighters inside the burning structure there must be two firefighters wearing self-contained breathing apparatus assembled outside the structure before a fire attack can begin. This is a safety requirement to provide rescue for firefighters in the structure if needed.
- **Why did the firefighters not flow or stop flowing water when my building was burning?**
  - There are times, mainly in rural areas, when the water supply is limited and must be saved to prevent exposures from burning. Sometimes water needs to be directed on the items that can be saved and not on property that has been totally consumed.
- **Why did the firefighters not enter my building when it was burning?**
  - Fire Commanders are trained in risk analysis on the fire scene. When nothing can be gained by putting firefighters in danger nothing should be risked. If a structure is totally involved or considered too dangerous to enter safer tactics are used. Many times firefighters will attack the fire from the exterior.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

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