



# The Red Guide to Recovery

## Resource Handbook for Disaster Survivors

June/July 2011

### One Family's Story

In 1988, I was a 17 year old senior in dusty El Centro, California. Deep in the middle of the night, after coming home from a date, I awoke to the piercing sound of my mother's voice screaming "Fire! Fire!" My two sisters were grown and married, one brother was away at college, and so it was only my parents, me, and my party-animal brother



Photo: Davyine Cook, 1988

at home. We were all able to exit calmly, but Dad couldn't let the house become the neighborhood marshmallow roast, so he ran back inside to get the fire extinguisher from under the kitchen sink.

I followed him in time to see the kitchen curtains fall in bright yellow flames onto his head and back. The lion in me sprang to life and I pulled him out of the house. Dad lived, but suffered 3rd degree burns over more than 25% of his body, mostly his arms, head and back.

He spent the next 2 or so months at the Burn Center in San Diego while we tried to piece our lives back together without him. Not having the decision-maker around was a severe blow to our family livelihood and recovery process. We wasted countless

### Hazardous Material Concerns After A Disaster

During a disaster, hazardous materials like chlorine bleach, ammonia, detergents, asbestos and lead based paint can become disturbed and cause contamination. If this happens, steps must be taken to contain and abate the



affected areas in order to ensure your health and safety, as well as the environment. Following are a few hot points to be focused on, should you ever be faced with a natural disaster where hazardous materials may be affected.

First, the age of your home is a good indicator of the presence of hazardous building materials. Any home built prior to 1979 may have lead, and/or asbestos materials present. Second, the first course of action is to have an independent, certified asbestos consultant perform tests to identify the presence of hazardous materials. The

### Disaster Can Strike At Any Time

### The Red Guide App is here!

What do you grab when Reverse 911 calls at 3:00am?

- Family & Pets? *Check*
- Keys & Phone? *Check*

Download the Red Guide App to have critical disaster recovery information at your fingertips, wherever you may be.

The iPhone app includes the 2011 National Edition of The Red Guide, with a comprehensive phone and contact directory, live news feeds and helpful videos. More platforms are on the way.



hours helping the fire department investigate the cause, when we should have been advocating our own cause with the insurance company, who reimbursed less than 80% of the contents, some of which included 1920's art and an amazing, extensive library.



Photo: Bill W. Cook 1990

Anita (on right) with her siblings, in birth order, in the re-built house in Imperial, CA.

All grown up, and living in the wildfire country of San Diego, I witnessed the inferno of the 2003 Cedar Fire and now keep a stock of air-filtration masks and emergency supplies in the house.

Fast-forward to 2007. Several of my buddies, including Kim Catalano and Dan Lamborn, were visiting Thailand on a mission trip when the Witch Creek Fire roared through Northeast San Diego County, decimating Ramona, Poway and Rancho Bernardo. Kim's house and horses barely survived, but the Lamborn's ranch home was reduced to 4 inches of fine gray ash.

Helping them sift through the ashes was heart-wrenching. I resolved to help them, as much as I was able to, through the process until they had their life back. Having The Red Guide to Recovery would have made the process quicker, simpler, and less stressful. Denise would not have wasted weeks trying to recall the contents of a 2,600 square foot home with sports equipment, clothing, toys, home furnishings and decor.

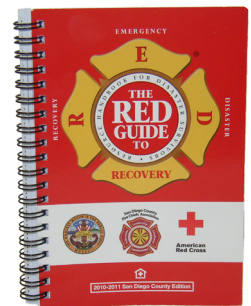
It took almost 2 years to resolve the housing morass, and thanks to Sean Scott's help, Dan and Denise received full compensation for their loss. I only wish my parents had known him in 1988. ~Anita L. Duff

consultant will take samples of materials such as drywall, plaster, flooring, paint, popcorn ceilings, roofing, siding, and stucco. The samples will be sent to a laboratory to be analyzed to determine if any hazardous levels of asbestos or lead are present. If you have insurance coverage, the fee for testing can sometimes be billed directly to your insurance carrier.


If hazardous materials are discovered and need to be removed, the environmental abatement contractor you select must have proper licensing, insurance, and a DOSH (Division of Occupational Safety and Health) license. These documents certify that the abatement contractor is capable of handling removal, transport and disposal.

It can be very helpful to involve a licensed environmental abatement contractor to coordinate the testing and work with your insurance company as well as answer any environmental concerns from the very beginning. Once results on the testing have been established, they should be provided to both you and your insurance company. Finally, with that in hand, an abatement estimate can be prepared that will illustrate the specific costs of the handling and disposal of hazardous materials.

You can log on to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) or [www.calosha.gov](http://www.calosha.gov) for specifics on regulations in your area.



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Answer QRC

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<http://www.theredguidetorecovery.com/newsletter-answers/>

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Inflate and stick on head for debris-removal comic relief	1. Lead poisoning stunts this in kids
6. Gland protection against invisibles	2. For gardening, grave-digging, debris
7. shampoo, nail polish remover, bleach, asbestos, oil	3. Great for whitest whites
8. 1959, The Coasters: "You're going to need an ocean, Of cala-mi-ine lotion"	4. \$2,000 buys a Level-A sealed seam one of these
10. They can hide in dark, warm places when disturbed	5. April showers bring May flowers. Asbestos claims bring these.
12. Know where this is if you smell sulfur	9. Sold in packs of 3
	11. Diamond ratings have 4 categories. HazMat suits have this many: