

FIRE

Determining the extent of fire and smoke damage is very difficult. Food exposed to fire can be compromised by three factors: the heat of the fire, smoke fumes, and chemicals used to fight fire. The following serves as a guide to determine the extent of the damage, what can be salvaged, and what must be discarded.

If there was...	Then...
Exposure to excessive heat	Food in cans or jars must be discarded – heat may activate food spoilage bacteria or split/rupture the can/jar.
Smoke damage and toxic fumes	Food in permeable packaging (cardboard, plastic wrap, screw-topped bottles and jars, etc.) and raw food outside the cooler (potatoes, fruit, etc.) must be discarded. Food stored in coolers or freezers may be contaminated by smoke or fumes if seal is not airtight. Any food exposed to smoke/fumes must be discarded.
Chemical contamination (fire suppressants, electrical insulation)	Food in permeable packaging and food outside the cooler must be discarded.
Leaking transformers, breakage of bottles of pesticides or cleaning supplies	Cookware and canned goods may be washed in a strong detergent solution, then dipped in bleach solution (one tablespoon of unscented liquid chlorine bleach per one gallon of water for 15 minutes).
Physical damage from falling debris	Discard any food that is physically damaged.
Water damage	Be alert/aware of possible pollution from non-potable water used in fire-fighting.

If there is a lack of refrigeration, consult Power Outage guide.

If there is water damage, consult Water Damage guide.

All equipment, floors, walls and ceilings must be cleaned and sanitized.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

All restaurants and grocery stores that have experienced a fire must contact the Erie County Department of Health at (814) 451-6700.

Detention:

All items that are questionable should be tagged with instructions to segregate and hold.

Disposal:

Keep a log of all food that is discarded. Secure the damaged merchandise until disposal. Send to an approved disposal site and keep receipt of disposal.

Erie County Department of Health

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