In an Emergency: Discard or Salvage

Discard

Salvage

Any food that has been contaminated or come in contact with water, sewage, smoke, fumes or chemicals. This includes:

- fresh perishables produce, meat, poultry, fish, dairy products and eggs.
- opened containers and packages
- vulnerable containers with peel-off, waxed cardboard, cork or screw tops or paraffin seals such as glass or plastic containers of catsup, dressing, milk, horseradish, mayonnaise, pop, beer, sauces, etc.
- soft, porous packaging food in cardboard boxes, paper, foil, plastic, and cellophane such as boxes or bags of food, cereal, flour, sugar, rice, salt, etc.
- **dry goods** spices, seasoning and extracts, flour, sugar and other staples in canisters.
- single service items plates, cups, utensils, lids, etc.

Frozen foods *if* stored in a completely sealed walk-in or cabinet freezer (no water, smoke, fumes or chemical infiltration) and where ambient temperature has remained below 41°F.

Disinfect undamaged cans and bottles that have no heat or water damage and are free from dents, bulging, leaks or rust.

- remove paper labels and immediately re-label with a permanent marker
- wash with soap and water
- rinse and let air dry

Canned and bottled items:

- if charred or near the heat of the fire
- if rusted, pitted, dented, swollen or leaking

Refrigerated or frozen food *must* be discarded if:

- in contact with sewage, water, smoke, fumes or chemical seepage.
- above 41°F for at least four hours.
- frozen and then thawed for two or more hours.
- deteriorated in quality or have an unusual appearance, color or odor.

If fire, flood or sewage back-up has been effectively contained:

- food in areas unaffected by smoke, fumes, water, heat, fire suppression chemicals, floodwater or sewage back-up may be salvaged.
- seek the advice of your local health inspector.

Other than food: Discard

Discard any exposed materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and sanitized, including toasters and other food equipment, linens, furnishings, carpets, etc.

