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News Release

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Paul Davis Restoration office owners provide tips for puff back damage -Puff backs can happen to anyone who heats their home or office with oil or gas-

Manchester, NH – October 4, 2011 - Peter Hoiriis, owner of [Paul Davis Restoration of Central New Hampshire](#), and Mike Hoiriis and Richard Smith, owners of local Paul Davis Emergency Services in Monadnock, New Hampshire and Methuen, Massachusetts respectively, offer the following tips for homeowners and business owners who experience puff back with their oil or gas heating systems. According to Peter Hoiriis, a puff back can occur when a furnace turns on and excess fuel is quickly ignited. The ignition creates a small explosion and can frequently cause soot to travel through the heating system and be distributed throughout the home or business.

Paul Davis is a leading provider of [fire, water and mold damage restoration](#), and reconstruction services for residential and commercial properties.

“Damage from puff back can appear in a wide variety of ways,” said Hoiriis. “For example, the damage may look like dust that reappears after cleaning or smearing on various surfaces, dark fingerprints that appear on almost every surface along with ‘soot webs’ that look like regular cobwebs, but are darker and soot around heating ducts and electrical circuits,” he explained.

According to Hoiriis, if a puff back has occurred, then don’t attempt to clean carpets, upholstered furniture, wallpaper or flat-painted walls. “Incorrect cleaning from damage do to a puff back will compound the problem. Avoid touching anything. Soot on your hands can permeate upholstery, walls, and woodwork and make things much worse,” he said. Hoiriis recommends that home and business owners consider notifying their insurance agency or insurance company immediately for next steps that may include remediation and clean up.

Hoiriis recommends working with a restoration contractor who is experienced in puff back mitigation as soon as possible. “It is important that the cleaning process begins immediately to prevent further damage and limit insurance claim amounts,” he said. “Within hours, acid residue will stain grout, fiber glass fixtures and Formica countertops. Also, appliances and vinyl windows will begin to discolor as well as finishes on furniture. Within days, metals will become corroded and pitted, walls yellow permanently. Within weeks Crystal, glass and china may become permanently damaged from etching. Carpet fibers yellow permanently,” he said.

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The most common cause for puff back is excess fuel in the bottom of the furnace and firebox, clogged orifices in the furnace burner nozzle that results in delayed ignition or a heavy build-up of soot within the burner. Puff backs happen most frequently in old fired furnaces and can also occur in a gas heating system. Additionally, in a forced hot air system, the ignition explosion can shake loose and blow out any soot or soil that has accumulated in the ductwork, further contributing to the severity of the loss. Puff back usually occurs when the furnace is turned on for the first time in the fall or during the start of cold weather.

“Home and business owners can reduce the risk of a puff back by having their furnace inspected annually and maintained in good repair. Keep debris, animal hair or anything that could interfere with the furnace and its proper functioning away from your oil burner,” said Hoiriis.

Paul Davis Restoration of Central New Hampshire has specially-trained technicians who use the latest in “green” and non toxic cleaning technology and techniques to repair and restore the damage caused by puff backs. Technicians are skilled at treating contents such as carpets, clothing, drapery, furniture and other items using sophisticated ozone equipment and dry cleaning to thoroughly remove the stains and odors associated with puff backs and other fire-related damage.

“We do all of our cleaning for soot and smoke mitigation with natural non toxic cleaners. We understand that most people who need our services in central New Hampshire now prefer and some require us to use non toxic cleaning solutions,” said Hoiriis. “We personally don’t like to use harsh toxic chemicals in our own home and strive to educate our customers about the benefits of cleaning with non toxic solutions for puff back damage and other restoration and cleaning services.”

Hoiriis and his full-time staff are certified from the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) in water, mold and fire along with certifications in Applied Structural Drying (ASD). For more information, contact Paul Davis Restoration at 603.622.9800 or email phoiriis@pdr-usa.net. Visit the website at www.pdrnh.com.

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[Paul Davis Restoration, Inc.](http://www.pdrestoration.com) is a national franchisor and leading provider of restoration services for residential and commercial properties since 1966. Paul Davis Restoration also provides advanced mold cleanup services and has franchise locations throughout North America with owners and technicians who are certified by The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). For more information, visit the website at www.pdrestoration.com.