

News Release

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Water Damage: The Critical Importance of Immediate Response

Newport News, VA - August 29, 2011 – The aftermath of Hurricane Irene is prompting property owners to immediately respond to water damage at their homes and offices. Property damage to a wet structure continues until the structure is dry. Getting estimates before starting work is analogous to taking bids for fire restoration work while the house is still burning. One or two days of delay can cause the cost and complexity of a water damage claim to climb by 100 percent to 200 percent or more.

Health and Safety

Few people are fully aware of the significant health risks created when water-damaged structures are not dried out quickly. In recent years, however, substantial national attention has been given to such problems. For example, individuals can become sick or die from respiratory problems caused by exposure to some molds. Mold requires a very wet environment, and usually grows in homes, offices and other structures as a consequence of improperly mitigated water damage.

Molds may cause “sick building syndrome,” allergic symptoms, and other health problems. Mold growth sufficient to cause these effects is not always, or even usually, visible to the naked eye. It is more often confined to crawlspaces, wall and ceiling cavities, HVAC ducting, and other inaccessible locations. Many types of molds require high levels of liquid moisture during initial growth, but when mature, mold can survive and reproduce indefinitely at much lower moisture levels, sometimes as low as standard indoor humidity levels. According to Stephen King, owner of [Paul Davis Restoration](#) in Newport News, mold growth can be effectively prevented only by quick and efficient drying, which removes the moisture necessary for initial mold growth before it can get a foothold.

Other safety problems of water-damaged structures include:

- Collapse (Wet materials are heavier and weaker.)
- Electrocutation (Electricity and standing water pose a deadly hazard.)
- Slip and fall (These accidents, and liability for them, are a danger until the water is cleaned up.)

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Damage that can be stopped by immediate response:

- Furniture stains carpet permanently and suffers cracking, splitting, and warping.
- Metal (including nails, screws, and cornerbead) begins to rust and deteriorate.
- Drywall softens, swells, and is eventually compromised.
- Wood laths behind plaster swell, breaking keys which provide the physical bond of plaster to wall.
- Wood trim and structural members swell, warp, and split.
- Electronic components corrode and malfunction.
- Plywood delaminates, and particle board buckles.
- Secondary damage (e.g., peeling paint and wallpaper, swollen cabinets, ruined photos) to many materials is caused by elevated humidity.

“Structures which have suffered water damage must be properly dried as quickly as possible to minimize liability, reduce severity, and protect the health of occupants,” said King.

For more information about minimizing water losses, call 757-245-1994 or email sking@pdr-usa.net. Visit the website at www.pdrnewportnews.com. Paul Davis Restoration is located at 9644 South Congress Street in Newport News, VA. The office serves customers in northwest Virginia including Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties.

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Paul Davis Restoration, Inc. is a leading provider of fire, water and mold damage restoration, contents cleaning and reconstruction services for residential and commercial properties. Paul Davis Restoration office owners nationwide are properly licensed individuals with certifications from leading industry organizations like The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). Founded in 1966, Paul Davis Restoration has franchise office locations throughout North America. Visit the website at www.pdrestoration.com.