



Hoarding A Growing Fire Problem

As recently as 10 years ago, little was known about the dangers to life and property caused by hoarding. And while the issues surrounding the psychological aspect of hoarding are now more frequently in the media, firefighters and other emergency responders are being endangered along with the hoarders themselves.

What is hoarding?

Hoarding is a psychological disorder in which a person “collects” and keeps many things, ranging from animals to items others might consider trash. Hoarders perceive these collections to be of worth, and that they are somehow “saving” the items from going to waste.

Compulsive Hoarding

Compulsive hoarding in its worst forms can cause fires, unclean conditions (e.g. rat and roach infestations), injuries from tripping on clutter, and other health and safety hazards.

Most people die in home fires, but hoarders create especially hazardous situations for emergency responders. Firefighters and other emergency personnel can be put at higher risk due to obstructed exits, falling objects, and excessive fire-loading that can lead to building collapse. Hoarding makes fighting fires and searching for occupants far more difficult.

“Hoarding is dangerous for homeowners and emergency response personnel!”



“Hoarding is a fire hazard!”



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