



Snohomish County
Planning and Development
Services

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ONLINE INFORMATION
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Fire Damage Repair

Revised January 2023

WWW.SNOCO.ORG

Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

Q: Do I need to get a building permit for repair work following a fire on my property?

A: Possibly. When a structure on your property has been damaged by fire, you will need a building permit for the repair work if it involves repair to the structural members, the emergency escape openings, or impacts compliance with the Washington State Energy Code.

Q: Do I need an inspection?

A: Possibly. An inspection is usually required before a repair permit is issued. The inspection will determine the damage and what repairs are needed to bring the building into conformity with building codes. If a structural engineer has been hired and provides documentation of damage and repair, an inspection report will not be required.

Q: What if the building is completely destroyed?

A: Buildings that are a total loss do not need an inspection report. The replacement residence will be processed as a “new residence.” NOTE: If the existing foundation is to be used for the replacement residence, a structural engineer’s report of adequacy may be required. Permit and plan check fees will be based on the square footage of the new structure.

Q: How do I schedule an inspection?

A: After a fire, you may need to have an inspection to determine if permits will be required to repair the structure. To request an Inspection Report (IR):

- Go to MyBuildingPermit.com
- Click on “Apply for Permit “and create a login/register (this login will be used each time you access this site).
- Choose Snohomish County as the jurisdiction and click on Start Application. The application pathway is Building > Single Family Residential > Inspection Only.
- Follow the prompts according to the specifics of your situation.
- You will need to provide the address of the building to be inspected and, if necessary, directions on how to find it. If the building is locked, arrangements must be made to meet the PDS inspector at the building.
- In the narrative description, please state “Fire Damage” as it helps our intake staff recognize the need for expediting your application. Also, if you have fire investigation case number (known as a PFN), please include that information.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

Q: Is there a fee for the inspection?

A: Yes. The inspection fee is set forth in Snohomish County Code 30.86.400(9). The inspection report fee will be collected after your application has been accepted.

Q: If I need a damage repair permit, will I need building plans?

A: Some minor repair permits do not require plans and are issued “subject to field inspection,” listing the conditions of the inspection report. A detailed site plan may be required. Inspections which reveal more extensive damage normally require plans for the repair permit.

Q: How do I apply for a damage repair permit, and what do I need to include with my building permit application?

A:

- Go to MyBuildingPermit.com.
- Click on “Apply for Permit “and create a login/register if you have not already done so.
- Choose Snohomish County as the jurisdiction and click on Start Application. The application pathway is Building > Single Family Residential
- You will need to submit the following items:
 - Online application form (you will need the address and tax acct/parcel #);
 - One set of plan drawings (if required by building inspector);
 - One site plan to engineer scale;
 - A copy of the Inspection Report (IR);
 - Completed Snohomish County Health Department Clearance form if the property is served by a septic system; and
 - A narrative ~ brief, concise project description.

Q: How much will the damage repair permit cost?

A: Building permit fees are based on the dollar value of the structural elements on the contract bid,. Fees will be determined and collected after you have submitted your application.

Q: What items will be required for the project review?

A: Your project review may include the following:

- Plans examination;
- Snohomish County Health Department review (if the property is served by a septic system);
- Flood Hazard review (if the property is in a flood hazard area); and/or
- A site review.

Q: What if my building has been damaged by flood, landslide, wind, or snow?

A: Contact the PDS Customer Service Center for further information (see below). Generally, repair or replacement of buildings in these situations will be similar to the process outlined above, but variations can occur.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions?

A: You may contact us if you have any questions via:

Online: [Ask A Permit Tech](#)

Telephone: 425-388-3311

Visit us at: 2nd Floor, Administration East, Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett