

SURVIVORS.

Real stories. Real disasters.
Real examples of why you need FireKing.



Proof.

FireKing file cabinets and safes are fireproof, crashproof, worryproof. And we have the independent test results and ratings to prove it. But nothing brings the story home on a more personal level than real examples from real businesses.

True stories of companies whose records survived.

Inside this booklet you'll find true stories of companies who faced serious business loss from fires, crashes, and other potential disasters. Fortunately all survived. Thanks to Fire King. If you're looking for the peace of mind and security that comes from knowing your valuable records are protected, choose FireKing. It's your first step in disaster control. And your best step toward being a survivor.

The file cabinet that crashed but didn't burn.

Newspaper reports called this the “most destructive fire ever to hit Terre Haute, Indiana.” When it was over, two blocks of the city’s busiest section lay in charred rubble. But, for CPA Kendall H. Hayhurst, the destruction did not affect the vital records stored in his FireKing fireproof insulated cabinet.

According to newspaper reports, the flames that engulfed Mr. Hayhursts’ office burned through the floor, sending his file cabinet crashing down from the second floor “in a shower of hot bricks and debris.” And Mr. Hayhurst, himself, says the FireKing file “was subjected to tremendous heat from about 1:30 Wednesday morning until about 4:30 Friday afternoon.”

“It was the worst fire in our city’s history. But all the papers in our FireKing file survived.”

–Kendall H. Hayhurst, CPA

Despite nearly two days of intense heat, when Mr. Hayhurst was finally able to dig his FireKing file out from the debris, “all the papers contained in the file were in satisfactory condition.” Rebuilding without vital records would be a daunting task for any business, but for a CPA, it would be a near impossibility.

It withstood an F-5 tornado without a loss.

Backing up the computer and placing the disk in the file cabinet along with other valuable records was a routine precaution for Sande and Jimmy Johnson, ever since they had purchased a four-drawer FireKing file cabinet. Routine, that is, until the tornado that struck that fateful May 3rd.

When the tornado had passed, the Johnsons and their 18-year old son had to be dug out of the rubble that had once been their 2200 square foot home with an in-home office. They had lost most of their possessions, including three vehicles, water craft, storage buildings, clothing and furniture. "The entire house was in small pieces.... No walls were left standing."

Despite this destruction, many of their most valuable possessions survived: birth & marriage certificates, an old family Bible, jewelry, important personal records, and the payroll checks they had prepared for employees that day. "They were ready to go, along with the computer backup copy of our business accounting system, also safely stored in our

"Our house received a direct hit and still everything in our FireKing file cabinet made it through."

–Sande Johnson

FireKing file cabinet," wrote Sande Johnson.

Because the Johnsons had the foresight to purchase a fireproof and crashproof FireKing file cabinet, they were able to quickly move on with their lives and their business.

Saved from a rolling disaster by her FireKing cabinet.

June proved to be much hotter than Mrs. Gerald Adams ever expected. At least for the contents of her household.

During her move from Florida to Massachusetts, the van carrying virtually all her earthly possessions caught fire. Starting at the van's rear axle, the blaze quickly raged through the entire body of the trailer and totally destroyed everything on the truck, with one exception: the contents of her

FireKing two-drawer file cabinet. Though badly scorched on the outside from the intensity of the heat, all the important documents stored within had come through unscathed.

“The cabinet itself was badly scorched, but ... all the paper records I kept inside were intact.”

– Mrs. Gerald J. Adams

“Since these records were important to me, I was very grateful indeed to have them back in my possession. Your FireKing file cabinet did what Fire King claimed it would do.”

Now safely ensconced in her new Massachusetts home, Mrs. Adams has replaced her lost furnishings and belongings ... and her scorched FireKing cabinet. With a new two-drawer FireKing file cabinet provided under warranty, she has the peace of mind of knowing that her documents are again fully protected.

“While I hope never to experience a disaster like last June's ever again, I am confident that my FireKing will protect whatever it holds, whatever happens.”

Great insurance for their insurance papers.

Virtually every business purchases insurance to protect its assets. But how do you protect the insurance documents that insure the continuity of your business?

Community Management Association, Inc., of Colorado Springs, Colorado, relied on two 4-drawer FireKing legal filing cabinets to protect all its important documents, including their insurance papers and other vital papers. It was protection for which they were profoundly grateful when an intense fire destroyed their office building.

When the fire department arrived, they found the building already engulfed in flames. “They could not go into the building,” wrote Janet K. Reiss, President of CMA. “They estimated [the heat at] 2000° for over 90 minutes.” In fact, it was so hot that the lock on

one of the FireKing cabinets actually melted and ran down the face of the cabinet.

“One cabinet was exposed to the most heat ... The lock melted and ran down the face of the cabinet.”

– Janet K. Reiss, C.C.A.E., President.

The contents? “Some of the documents ... were browned and a little smoky,” Ms. Reiss wrote. But all of them were intact, despite being exposed to such extreme temperatures and the thousands of gallons of water that the fire department poured on the flames.

“I can’t tell you how thankful we are that we had your cabinets protecting our corporate books, certificates and insurance documentation.” With a little help from Fire King, CMA was able to survive their disaster and land back on their feet in almost no time.

Data retrieved, picture-perfect, from fire that melted girders.

American Hose and Hydraulics of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, suffered a devastating fire that totally destroyed its offices. Experts determined that the blaze roared for more than 10 1/2 hours at temperatures in excess of 2000°, with temperatures exceeding 2800° during the hottest 3 1/2 hours of the conflagration.

The fire was so hot that steel girders 16 inches in girth and 1/2 inch thick melted and deformed! What chance would computer data and 35mm film have in such an inferno?

Fortunately for American Hose & Hydraulics, they safeguarded their computer data, camera and film in a DC20 FireKing Data Safe. Even though it was eleven hours later before the remnants of their offices had cooled enough to be entered, the FireKing Data Safe was retrieved intact from the wreckage.

After the safe was opened by a locksmith, "the computer data was retrieved, cleaned by professionals, and used in less than one week to put American Hose back on its feet," wrote David Prestridge. But it gets even better. "The film in the camera was developed, just for fun," he continued, "and rendered flawless pictures."

So amazed at how well their FireKing Data Safe performed, American Hose now keeps the old safe enshrined at their new offices.

“Your product performed its task and exceeded your published information on performance criteria.”

– David L. Prestridge

Questions & Answers About FireKing Protection

Q: Why do I need special file cabinets? My regular files are metal; they won't burn.

A: While everyday metal files may not burn, they directly conduct the heat of a fire to the interior, where your records will ignite. In a sense, your standard metal file cabinets become fancy incinerators.

Q: What do Class 350 or Class 125 ratings mean? Fires get much hotter than those temperatures.

A: The UL class rating signifies the maximum internal temperature allowed during the fire test. Depending on the length of the UL test, the external heat will range from 1550° F. to 2000° F.; yet the internal temperatures cannot exceed 350° F. for paper or 125° F. for computer media.

Q: What good is a product that is rated for only one hour? Fires last longer than that.

A: The average fire burns at around 800° F. as it passes through a building. The temperature will increase in any area as flammable materials are consumed, a period that averages about 20 minutes in any location. Then the temperature decreases as the fire moves on.

The UL test consists of two parts, the 1-hour burn portion during which the product is subjected to the most intense heat, and the cool-down period which can last from 15 to 25 hours and simulates the lower-temperature segment of a typical fire. It is during the latter of the two tests that most product fail. For the duration the entire test, the internal temperature and humidity cannot exceed the standards set forth by UL. A 1-hour rating means that the product passed both the intense heat and the cool-down portion of the test.

By the way, Fire King also offers the industry's only UL 2-hour rated cabinets. These files are used in high-risk areas, such as chemical factories.

A note of caution. Be wary of any product that claims it was "tested to UL standards." It may have been tested, but the statement does not necessarily mean that it passed the test.

Q: Why are FireKing files impact tested?

A: Heat isn't the only hazard during a fire. Ceilings fall and floors collapse. If a file cabinet is not rated for impact, it could split open and fail in this situation. For FireKing cabinets to carry the

UL 1-Hour fire and impact rating, a fully loaded file cabinet is heated at 1550° F. for 1/2 hour, dropped 30 feet onto a bed of rubble, inverted and placed back in the 1550° oven for another 1/2 hour. The contents must survive this test for the cabinet to earn the rating.

Q: Why should I purchase records protection products?

Won't my insurance cover my records?

A: The proper business insurance will cover your records. The catch is, you must document all your losses. If your documents are destroyed, that will be extremely difficult. In addition, there are business records and even personal items that are literally irreplaceable. No amount of insurance can compensate for their loss.

Q: Why do I need special products to protect computer media?

A: Computer media is considerably more susceptible to heat and moisture damage than paper records, and therefore must have a considerably greater degree of protection. FireKing Data Safes and MediaVaults are designed to provide superior protection against not just heat and humidity, but also dust and magnetic interference. They offer complete protection for your company's computer media.

Q: How long after a fire should I wait to open my FireKing cabinet?

A: Wait until you can comfortably rest your hand on the cabinet before you open it, to avoid the danger of spontaneous combustion of its contents. While you can artificially cool down the cabinet with water, it can give a false impression of how cool the interior may be, so be very careful.

Q: Are FireKing products waterproof?

A: UL does not test for water resistance. Prior to being in a fire, no insulated product is tightly sealed. So they will leak if submerged in water. When they are exposed to heat, the insulation in FireKing cabinets expands, tightly sealing all joints and making them extremely water resistant.

Q: Are these products really fireproof?

A: No product on the market is totally fire proof. The actual UL classification is for fire resistance based on the product's tested and proven ability to resist fires of specific temperatures and lengths. These tests are based on the types and duration of fires experienced by the vast majority of businesses.

For more information about protecting your records and media in case of fire, contact your Fire King representative today. For the Fire King dealer nearest you, call 1-800-457-2424



The best records protection money can buy.

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