



## Case History

# 18<sup>th</sup> Century Townhouse devastated by fire

When an 18<sup>th</sup> century townhouse in Ellesmere, Shropshire was severely damaged by fire, Rainbow Powys and Mid Wales, were called in to help minimise losses and start the clean up operation.

The entire roof and attic had collapsed due to the ferocity of the fire, it had taken the Fire Brigade had taken 18 hours to extinguish the flames and make the building safe and ready for inspection.

The listed building is a “T” shape dwelling, with the rear of the property, the former servants quarters, being developed in more recent times into a separate house. The rear home was the instructing address, but being on-site immediately after the brigade had made the building safe, the loss adjuster asked Rainbow to attend to both properties.

The roof collapse had caused major damage to the entire 2nd floor of the property, and it was soon apparent that there were 2 separate issues that had to be dealt with. Firstly there was only moderate smoke damage as most of the smoke had been able to exit straight through the collapsed roof, but heavy water damage from the thousands of gallons used by the brigade to dampen the fire had taken a heavy toll on the entire property.

Rainbow’s branch in Newtown went into action immediately. The first priority was to save as much of the house contents as possible, and move them to controlled, dry storage at their business unit to ensure no secondary damage was caused. 45 laundry bags and smaller household contents were removed, along with the policyholders most prized possession – a 1950 concert grand piano which needed 5 trained technicians to move.

Over the next few days, all the other larger contents were removed to safe storage and restoration work began on those items that could be salvaged.

Meanwhile the drying programme commenced as soon as the roof structure was replaced, but with the intensity of the water damage, the drying programme meant that the occupants were unable to return to their homes for several months.

Both the loss adjuster and the occupants were very grateful to Rainbow for being on-site so promptly, and helping to save many of their valuable possessions.

## Key Facts

### Service

- Fire Restoration

### Location

- West Midlands

### Services Employed

- Insurance Report
- Soot Removal
- Building Restoration
- Fire Damage Restoration
- Contents Restoration & Storage
- Drying Programme



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