



Puro-Tec worker Dan Lynch (left) cuts excess wood out of a door frame as the company works to repair a house in Bristol Township that recently caught on fire. **STEVE GEIGLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Hope after disaster

Puro-Tec Ltd. cleans up the mess after house fires, floods and other emergencies.

BY JOHN ANASTASI
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It was Ash Wednesday — Feb. 25 — when fire broke out at Mark Kubacki's Bristol Township home. Before fire-fighters had even left the scene, Bensalem's Puro-Tec Ltd. was there.

Puro-Tec immediately boarded up the house and within days had repaired the roof and installed new windows.

"They were recommended by my insurance company," Kubacki recalled. "They had six to eight guys here working feverishly."

The guys at Puro-Tec, most of whom have backgrounds in construction, got into the business five years ago because they knew someone had to clean up the mess after house fires, floods and other emergencies.

Puro-Tec, which started as a cleanup service for debris, has grown to offer commercial and residential property reconstruction, water extraction and mold remediation as well.

"I'd say 90 percent of what we do is covered by insurance," said David Ames, Puro-Tec's business development director.

Puro-Tec gets jobs from residents and insurance company referrals. It also automatically responds to some fires and floods to see if its services are needed.

"As much education as people have, they aren't prepared when something like this happens," said Ames, who takes pride in being able to offer fire victims comfort and hope.

Company President Patrick J. Ferris said Puro-Tec can help homeowners by quickly securing the house and serving as a resource. The company can help determine the home's level of insurance coverage and then work within the victim's budget to develop a cleanup and reconstruction plan.

Puro-Tec can even store belongings at its facility on Wicker Avenue while the work is being done.

"It keeps us on the tips of our toes," Ferris said of the job. "We like that, believe it or not. At the end of the day you really feel like you accomplished something and you feel good about that."

Ferris said he has noticed that a lower-than-usual percentage of residents seem to be carrying comprehensive insurance, perhaps due to the economy. Comprehensive insurance covers damages from fire, water but

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not from flooding, personal possessions, personal liability, theft and vandalism.

"A lot of times, they're letting that fall by the wayside," said Ferris, who added that other residents have seen their insurance deductibles go up.

Both recent developments have cut into Puro-Tec's bottom line. Another challenge has been relying on insurance and mortgage companies to release money in a timely manner.

Work has slowed down at the Kubacki home, for example, since Ferris estimated that Puro-Tec had performed about \$20,000 worth of work there and has yet to be paid.

"Their pockets aren't bottomless," Kubacki said of Puro-Tec. "Once they get the money, it could be as fast as about three weeks (to finish the job)."

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