When filing a fire insurance claim, there are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. To help you navigate the process, we have put together several talking points for you to review. Having a full understanding of each of the below bullet points is crucial to documenting, filing, and successfully settling your insurance claim.

If any of these questions give you pause, please feel free to reach out to us for a no-cost discussion about your claim.

- How can you identify/document items that are totally destroyed?
- Your insurance company pays less if you clean/restore as much of your equipment and improvements as possible. Is that a good idea?
- How do the smoke and the water used to fight the fire affect your machinery? Your computers, equipment and other electronics?
- Water used in fire suppression oft times causes mold and fungus. Is the ensuing damage covered?
- Asbestos and lead containing materials can have a major impact on your claim. Are you aware of how to properly address these in order to avoid future liability issues?
    - Hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead can be expensive to address.
    - You want to make sure your insurance carrier does not cut corners when addressing this issue.
- Code Upgrade coverage is very important when rebuilding after a fire. How does your coverage address code coverage? Green building upgrades? If your coverage is limited, is there anything you can do about it?
- What happens when the insurance company engages a forensic accountant?
    - What is his/her role?
    - Why can't your accountant just prepare your claim?
    - What is the harm in sharing your financial statements?
    - Are you required to produce your tax returns?
    - Can you recast your financial statements? If so, why?
- What are expediting expenses? How do they differ from extra expenses?
- What are extra expenses? What can be in included?