



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

615 Church Street | Nashville, TN | 37219

July 15, 2025

MEDIA ADVISORY

Library Board Receives Restoration Report

As Process at Main Library Continues, So Do Hundreds of Free NPL Programs Across Davidson County

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Disaster response experts today reported to the Nashville Public Library (NPL) Board of Directors about the ongoing restoration process at the Main Library in downtown Nashville following a June 10 fire in the adjacent parking garage.

While the process continues, NPL is offering **hundreds of free programs for all ages**, access to **free public computers and WiFi** and **free, helpful services** through [NPL's Book-A-Librarian](#) at branch locations [across Davidson County](#).

The multi-faceted team hired by NPL includes restoration professionals, indoor environmental consultants and industrial hygienists whose assessment of the Main Library—which spans five levels and approximately 300,000 square feet—shows:

Building Assessment

- **More than 90 percent of the building** sustained **very light soot and smoke impact**, which occurs when residue found on a surface is so minimal that it cannot at first glance be differentiated from normal dust typically found in any building or workplace
- **Less than 10 percent of the building**—primarily the Conference Center, Auditorium, Art Gallery, Circulation Workroom, and

connecting hallways on the first floor—sustained **moderate or heavy impacts**

- Moderate impact occurs when a surface is still visible through soot, and heavy impact occurs when a surface cannot be seen through soot

Books and Materials

- **Ninety-nine percent of books and materials** housed at the Main Library are **fully restorable with light cleaning**
- Books in **Archives and Special Collections** did **not sustain any damage**
- Restoration experts are **evaluating artwork and other assets** within the heavily impacted area of the building

Air Quality

- **Air quality** within the Main Library has been **restored to normal** and will continue to be monitored throughout the restoration process
- Prior to reopening, cleaning and restoration experts will conduct a **final post-cleaning and remediation verification assessment**, including **comprehensive air sampling**
- Additionally, a **separate team of consultants** hired by Metro's insurance carrier are engaged in the process to **review the recommendations and findings** of the experts hired by NPL

Next Steps

- The restoration team working with NPL is targeting a **July 29 reopening date**
- Reopening will likely include the entire building except for the Auditorium and Conference Center areas, which will be **blocked off for longer-term restoration**
- NPL will share updates if changes occur that affect the planned reopening date, as can happen during a restoration process of this scale

CONTACT: Joan Brasher 615/438.8475 (mobile)
joan.brasher@nashville.gov

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