



THE FOUNDATION
OF THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION
OF HISTORIC AND
ARTISTIC WORKS

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National Heritage Responders (NHR) Available to Assist with Damaged Collections

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Record-breaking rainfall in states along the Mississippi river has brought flooding to communities in Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Although spring thaws often bring flooding to the region, floods this early in the season may suggest future water events in the coming months. The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) offers free emergency response assistance to cultural organizations affected by flooding. Please help ensure that staff members of collecting institutions know to contact the National Heritage Responders (NHR) if their collections have been damaged.

- Call our 24-hour hotline at 202.661.8068 for free advice by phone.
- Call 202.661.8068 to arrange for a volunteer team to come to the site at no cost to complete a damage assessment and help organize salvage operations.

NHR volunteers have provided assistance and advice to dozens of museums, libraries, and archives since 2007. Teams were on the ground responding to events large and small, from local flooding and furnace blow-backs to damage from Hurricane Ike in 2008 and Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, volunteers worked with local conservators and artists to save thousands of works damaged by storm surge and mold. Volunteers have also deployed internationally; NHR team members and other American Institute for Conservation (AIC) conservators participated in an 18-month-long project in Haiti assisting with recovery of cultural materials damaged in the 2010 earthquake.

The National Heritage Responders are supported and managed by the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation. In 2007 and again in 2010, FAIC received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support an advanced training program for conservators and other preservation professionals that resulted in a force of 107 responders trained to assess damage and initiate salvage of cultural collections after a disaster has occurred. Support for ongoing operations and emergency deployments is provided by individual donations and a leadership gift from Ironshore and its reinsurer, Lloyd's of London.

The National Heritage Responders are ready to help. Resources and information on disaster recovery and salvage can be found on the AIC website at www.conservation-us.org/disaster.

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About AIC

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works is the national membership organization supporting the professionals who preserve our cultural heritage. Learn more about AIC at www.conservation-us.org.

About FAIC

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that advance the conservation profession nationally and internationally while promoting understanding of our global cultural heritage. FAIC supports and manages the NHR (formerly known as AIC-CERT) Learn more about FAIC at www.conservation-us.org/foundation.