

# Collaboration as Preparation: Keeping Interest and Commitment to the Cycle of Disaster Preparedness

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## What does disaster preparation mean?

Preparing for disasters requires more than simply assembling materials for recovery, or even writing down a step-by-step plan. It involves constant practice, evaluation and re-evaluation, and a commitment from stakeholders across the entire breadth of an organization. At the Folger Shakespeare Library, we have spent the last year completely re-evaluating and reforming our commitment to disaster preparedness. Following one or two small, near-disaster situations, it became clear that commitment and collaboration from all staff members to both simple and complex disaster preparations is vital to our future success in facing situations large or small. Achieving buy-in and maintaining interest from staff are both difficult and crucial in the long-term when other, more pressing daily issues consistently assert themselves, but preparedness must become a key part of daily workflow. The Folger's Collections Disaster Preparedness Committee, comprising key members of our Security team, Facilities team, Reference team, Acquisitions team, Conservation team, and Curatorial staff, is central to this goal.

