THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Denver Forum
Denver Public Library
September 25, 2009
Cultural heritage resources:

- Libraries
- Museums
- Historical societies
- Monuments
- Historic buildings
- City archives
- Zoos
- Arboreta
Cultural institutions and historic sites:
• Help define our history and sense of place
• Provide services and resources to citizens
• Contribute to the economy
• Give communities sense of normalcy after a crisis
American museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, and scientific research organizations are visited 2.5 billion times a year.

Over 4.8 billion artifacts are held in the public trust by more than 30,000 cultural heritage institutions in the US.
Collections are vulnerable, valuable, and sometimes irreplaceable.
Did you know?

80% of cultural heritage institutions in the US do not have an emergency plan with staff trained to carry it out.
Who are Emergency Responders?
State emergency management
Local emergency management
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Firefighters
Law Enforcement
Emergency Medical Technicians
National Guard
There are official systems in place. Find where you fit. Learn the lingo.
Hi! Do you keep a lot of toxic chemicals in your maintenance closet?

These walls might not be in the same place the next time I’m here?!

Knowledge is power!
Emergency Professionals Can Help Develop Realistic Plans
• Goal: to bring together heritage and emergency professionals *before* disasters happen

• Forums in 8 cities, 1 state, and 4 CA regions since 2003

• Impact on many levels:
  – Institutional plans
  – Cooperative networks
  – Local policies
Fine Examples!

- In Atlanta, HERA established a list-serv to track damage & recruit volunteers.
- Cultural institutions in the “Alert Philadelphia” program increased from 11 to 100+. Credentials are next!
- In Boston, CEMT gained an official response role through a statewide framework.
- Pittsburgh Alliance for Response sponsored a joint tabletop exercise.
- NYC-OEM taught museums & libraries how to tailor scenarios.
Recovery Assistance

www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/TFcurrent

Heritage Emergency National Task Force
Information on Major Disasters

Upper Midwest Spring Flooding 2009

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force is tracking cultural heritage damage and response efforts related to Spring flooding in the Upper Midwest.

For current flooding status, see National Weather Service alerts for Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Minnesota Public Radio and the Bismarck Tribune are two sources for flooding news coverage.

GUIDE TO NAVIGATING

Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration

GUIDE TO AID FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Resources

Coping with Water Damage, a 10-minute video from the Field Guide to Emergency Response

Save Your Treasures the Right Way

Guide to Navigating FEMA and SBA Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions

Cultural Institutions

Submit a Damage Report or Request for Assistance.

View the list of damage reports or requests for assistance.

Contact Information for:

State cultural agencies and associations
Incentives for Preparedness

MayDay
SAVING OUR HERITAGE
MAY 1 • 2009
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE
Expert Advice Made Easy

For cultural heritage:
• Saving Treasures the Right Way
• Coping with Water Damage (video)
• Dealing with Soot (video)

And for the general public:
• Saving Treasures the Right Way
• Coping with Water Damage (video)
• Dealing with Soot (video)
No dramatic illustrations, please!
It all starts now!