Forming A Local Disaster Network in Metro Atlanta
Timeline

- February 8, 2007, Alliance for Response Atlanta
- March 23, 2007, First follow up meeting,
  - Mission statement and steering committee
- June 2007, Name decided upon
- August 2008, Logo designed
About Alliance for Response

- Series of national forums intended to bring together first responders and members of the cultural heritage community
- Sponsored by Heritage Preservation
- 15 forums held around the country
- 80 attended the Atlanta forum on February 8, 2007 at the High Museum of Art
Mission

- HERA is an affiliation of institutions and persons interested in preserving the cultural heritage in the Metro Atlanta area, and serving as a resource to cultural institutions around the state. The primary aim of HERA is to mitigate the loss of cultural heritage materials in the event of a disaster.
Primary Activities

- Networking
- Information sharing
- Raise awareness and encourage disaster planning
- Provide opportunities for education
- Interact with local and state Emergency Management
- Prepare and respond collectively to disasters in the region
- Identify existing resources (materials and expertise) needed after a disaster
HERA Overview

- Currently 86 “members”
- Listserv hosted by Emory University
- Hold 2 steering committee meetings and 2 educational programs per year
  - Tabletop Exercise, “Fire at the Museum”, 3/2008 at NARA SE (42 attended)
  - Tour of tornado damage at Oakland Cemetery, 8/2008 (15 attended)
  - Panel Discussion, “The First Responders Have Left Now What?” at GA Tech, 10/2008 (23 attended)
Disaster Response

- Atlanta Daily World, March 2008
  - Oldest continuously published African-American newspaper in the US, since 1928
  - Building on Auburn Avenue damaged by Atlanta tornado
Disaster Response

- Over a period of two weeks, 21 HERA volunteers from 9 organizations helped pack out damaged historical and business records.
- HERA provided volunteer labor and several institutions donated supplies and materials.
Current Initiatives & Future Plans

- **Website**
  - Hosted by Heritage Preservation
  - [http://www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/index.html](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/index.html)

- **Database of members**
  - Contact Info
  - Areas of expertise
  - Equipment

- **Grant for shared supply stockpiles**
  - Initial proposal – three containers containing supplies
    - Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta-area

- **Mutual Aid Agreement**
Tips for Sustaining a Network

- Lead organization with administrative commitment
- Agreed upon mission and goals
- Involve first responders
- Regular meetings and communication
- Build on models of successful networks

  - Dues and funding helpful, but not essential
Get to Know First Responders

- Fire and Police Departments
- City/County Offices of Emergency Management
- State Emergency Management Agency
- Local FEMA region
- Local American Red Cross Chapter
Other Disaster Networks

- AIC–CERT
  - http://aic-faic.org
- IELDRN, Inland Empire Libraries Disaster Response Network
  - www.ieldrn.org
- Kansas Disaster Recovery Assistance Network (K–DRAN)
  - www.kshs.org/archives/kdran.org
- SILDRN, San Diego/Imperial County Libraries Disaster Response Network
  - http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/sildrn/
- CEMT (Cultural Emergency Management Team, Boston)
  - www.nedcc.org/cemt/cemt.htm
Want to Join?

- Complete a membership form
  - www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/index.html
- Join the listserv, send a message to:
  - Hera.Atlanta@gmail.org
  - cwiseman@sos.ga.gov
- Look for postings on relevant listservs about meetings and educational programs