THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Central Pennsylvania Forum
C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center
Harrisburg, PA
October 26, 2009
Historic Ropes Mansion Saved!

- 2-alarm fire on August 15 (a weekend of course).
- 1727 mansion on NRHP, with original furnishings.
- **Plot Spoiler:** But they had a plan and knew responders.
- PEM disaster team evacuated treasures.
- Firefighters knew exactly what to do.
- Performance was “nothing short of miraculous”.
- Everything of value was salvaged.

Photo by Frank Cutietta
Cultural heritage resources:

- Libraries
- Museums
- Historical societies
- Monuments
- Historic buildings
- City archives
- Zoos
- Arboreta
Collections are vulnerable, valuable, and sometimes irreplaceable.
American libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and scientific research organizations are visited 2.5 billion times a year.

The visitors can be as vulnerable as the collections.
After disasters, historic sites and cultural institutions can:

- Reaffirm our sense of place
- Provide services and resources to citizens
- Give communities sense of normalcy after a crisis
2005: **80%** of cultural heritage institutions in the US did **not** have emergency plans for collections with staff trained to carry them 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.

Cert...COOP...EOC...GIS...ICS...JFO...MOU...NCH...NIMS...NIPP...PNP...NCEMA...
What emergency responders need to know...

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?!
Emergency professionals can help develop realistic plans
About the Program

- **Goal:** to bring together heritage and emergency professionals *before* disasters happen
- **Forums in 11 cities, 1 state, and 4 CA regions since 2003**
- **Impact on many levels:**
  - Institutional plans
  - Cooperative networks
  - Local policies
Results:

Educational Programs & Training

- Pittsburgh Alliance for Response sponsored a joint tabletop exercise with emergency managers
- Ohio sponsored a workshop on fire protection
- NYC-OEM taught museums & libraries how to tailor scenarios
- A tour of restoration after fire damage is scheduled
- Several cities will be offering workshops on continuity of operations planning (COOP)
Results: Networks and Policies

- In Atlanta, HERA meets quarterly and 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
- The new Denver Alliance for Response is building a roster of key contacts
Find out more about Alliance for Response at: www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR
Disaster Resources

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 Storm_watch are two sources for flooding news coverage.

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

Archives of Disaster Information

- Hurricanes and Tropical Storms 2008
- Midwest Flooding 2013
- California Wildfires 2017
- Hurricanes 2005

Contact Information for:

State cultural agencies and associations

GUIDE TO NAVIGATING

Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration

DISASTER AID FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Heritage Preservation
The National Institute for Conservation
May Day
SAVING OUR HERITAGE
MAY 1 • 2010
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE
Risk Evaluation and Planning Program (REPP)

With IMLS funding, Heritage Preservation’s REPP pilot project:

- Conducted site visits by preservation and emergency assessors at 15 museums
- Provided a report, mitigation “menu,” and guidance for planning
- Demonstrated that a risk evaluation by professionals will increase preparedness
- Resulted in written emergency plans and new partnerships
Expert Advice Made Easy

For cultural heritage:

And for the general public:

• Saving Treasures the Right Way
• Coping with Water Damage (video)
• Dealing with Soot (video)
This doesn’t have to be hard.
The partnerships begin today!