THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Triangle Forum
North Carolina Museum of Art
Raleigh, NC
October 23, 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
- There was some damage BUT...
- Everything of value was salvaged.

Photo by Frank Cutietta
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.
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 9 cities, 1 state, and 4 CA regions since 2003
- Impact on many levels:
  - Institutional plans
  - Cooperative networks
  - Local policies
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)
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
Incentives for Preparedness

MayDay
SAVING OUR HERITAGE
MAY 1 • 2010
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE

ARCHIVES • HISTORIC PRESERVATION
LIBRARIES • MUSEUMS • HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
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!