



THE FOUNDATION
OF THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION
OF HISTORIC AND
ARTISTIC WORKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIC-CERT American Institute for Conservation – Collections Emergency Response Team

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Tropical Storm Erika threatens to bring wind and torrential rain to several U.S. states and territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) offers free emergency response assistance to cultural organizations in the storm’s path. Please help ensure that staff members of collecting institutions know to contact AIC-CERT if their collections have been damaged.

- Call our 24-hour hotline at 202.661.8068 for free advice by phone.
- Call 202.661.8068 to arrange for a volunteer team to come to the site at no cost to complete a damage assessment and help organize salvage operations.

AIC-CERT volunteers have provided assistance and advice to dozens of museums, libraries, and archives since 2007. AIC-CERT teams were on the ground following the Midwest floods in 2008 and in the Galveston area following Hurricane Ike later that year. AIC-CERT members and other AIC conservators participated in an 18-month-long project in Haiti assisting with recovery of cultural materials damaged in the 2010 earthquake, and responded to Tropical Storm Irene and flooding in Minot, North Dakota, in 2011. AIC-CERT led the way in the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, working with local conservators and artists to save thousands of works damaged by storm surge and mold.

AIC-CERT is supported and managed by the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation. In 2007 and again in 2010, FAIC received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support an advanced training program for conservators and other preservation professionals that resulted in a force of 107 “second responders” trained to assess damage and initiate salvage of cultural collections after a disaster has occurred. They are ready to assist.

Resources and information on disaster recovery and salvage can be found on the AIC website at www.conservation-us.org/disaster. The public can also call the AIC-CERT hotline.

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About AIC

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works is the national membership organization supporting the professionals who preserve our cultural heritage. AIC plays a crucial role in establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, providing educational opportunities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public. Learn more about AIC at www.conservation-us.org.

About FAIC

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that advance the conservation profession nationally and internationally while promoting understanding of our global cultural heritage. Learn more about FAIC at www.conservation-us.org/foundation.