



**ALLIANCE
FOR RESPONSE**

A National Program on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Management

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Protecting Cultural Heritage

Floods, fires, and other disasters can harm or destroy irreplaceable cultural and historic treasures. But the institutions and organizations that safeguard art, artifacts, books, and historic buildings can prepare for emergencies and minimize damage. One of the keys to preparedness is a relationship with the first responders and emergency managers who are integral to response and recovery.

Connecting local emergency responders with representatives of the cultural heritage community is a priority of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force. Regardless of the scope of the emergency, the first response will always be local. The need for dialogue is clear, and partnerships must be in place before disaster strikes.

Since 2003, Heritage Preservation has been promoting these connections through its innovative national program, Alliance for Response. The initiative begins with a one-day forum for cultural leaders and emergency professionals and leads to new partnerships and local projects. Alliance for Response forums foster cooperation among cultural and historic preservation organizations, improve local planning efforts, and enhance the protection of heritage resources.

New Relationships, New Projects

Alliance for Response forums have led to new cooperative networks and creative preparedness efforts around the country. Among the examples:

- **Boston** created a first-in-the-nation annex to the state Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for the protection of cultural and historical resources
- **Seattle** adapted a model mutual aid agreement; all local institutions that join are expected to have a disaster plan
- **Savannah** used Heritage Preservation's Risk Evaluation and Planning Program to evaluate the level of risk that Savannah's cultural institutions face
- **New York City** participated in NYC Office of Emergency Management conference calls to receive and provide updates on response activities after hurricanes Irene and Sandy

Alliance for Response forums have been held in 23 regions since 2003:

Atlanta	Philadelphia
Boston	Pittsburgh
Cincinnati	Portland
Dallas	Raleigh
Denver	Sacramento
Erie	Savannah
Galveston-Houston	San Diego
Harrisburg	San Francisco
Los Angeles	Seattle
Miami	Vermont
Minneapolis-St. Paul	Utah
New York City	

Alliance for Response is sponsored by Heritage Preservation, in support of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force.

Heritage Preservation is a mission-driven, independent, public policy organization dedicated to preserving the cultural, historic, and scientific heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing innovative programs, and providing broad public access to expert advice, Heritage Preservation assists museums, libraries, archives, historic preservation and other organizations, as well as individuals, in caring for our endangered heritage.

Since 1995, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force has worked to help libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites safeguard collections. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Heritage Preservation, this partnership of 42 national organizations and federal agencies is FEMA's liaison with the cultural heritage community.

Visit www.heritagepreservation.org for more information.

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