

An Initiative of
Federal Emergency
Management Agency
Heritage Preservation
and

Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation

American Association
of Museums

American Association
for State and Local History

American Institute
of Architects

American Institute for
Conservation of Historic and
Artistic Works

American Library Association
Association of Art Museum
Directors

Association of Regional
Conservation Centers

Council on Library and
Information Resources

Department of the Army

General Services
Administration, Public
Buildings Service

The Getty Conservation
Institute

Institute of Museum and
Library Services

International Association of
Emergency Managers

Library of Congress

National Archives and
Records Administration

National Association of
Government Archives and
Records Administrators

National Conference of State
Historic Preservation Officers

National Emergency
Management Association

National Endowment
for the Arts

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National Park Service

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Preservation

OCLC Online Computer
Library Center, Inc.

Regional Alliance for
Preservation

Small Business Administration

Smithsonian Institution

Society of American Archivists

Society for Historical
Archaeology

Society for the Preservation of
Natural History Collections

US/International Council on
Monuments and Sites



Alliance for Response

A Series of Forums on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Management

Cultural Heritage at Risk

America's cultural and historic resources are widely dispersed across the country. Every state and many communities hold important pieces of the national memory, and these collections of art, artifacts, manuscripts, and buildings remain at risk from terrorism and natural disasters.

In June 2002, the **Heritage Emergency National Task Force** released *Cataclysm and Challenge*, the first comprehensive study of the impact of September 11, 2001 on cultural heritage. One of the primary lessons learned is the importance of building working relationships between the stewards of cultural resources and emergency managers. *Cataclysm and Challenge* urges museums, libraries, archives, and historic sites to begin dialogues with first responders before disasters strike.

Creating New Partnerships

A new initiative called **Alliance for Response** will bring cultural heritage leaders and emergency management professionals together to protect local cultural and historic resources more effectively. Four model forums will be held with the goal of creating new partnerships to:

- raise awareness of the significance of local cultural and historic resources and the value of preservation expertise
- encourage effective emergency preparedness and training at cultural institutions and historic sites
- foster closer cooperation among institutions
- develop local initiatives in disaster planning and mitigation
- strengthen local response capabilities.

The Host Cities

One-day forums will be held in four cities during 2003: Boston, Cincinnati, Dallas, and New York. Each one-day program will be tailored to help an emerging disaster response network become a successful model of cooperation. These networks or coalitions will be representative of the cultural and historic resources of each city or region and firmly committed to strengthening relationships with emergency managers and first responders.

Forum Programs and Participants

A typical forum program might include outside experts recruited to share case studies of successful local networks or projects. Discussion groups focused on the disaster planning process or similar topics will be encouraged. Participants

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and presenters will include, among others: directors of local museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and historical societies; state museum, library, archive, and historic preservation officials; senior staff from the regional FEMA office and state emergency management agencies; officials from police, fire, and other municipal emergency response agencies; local representatives of the American Red Cross and other appropriate NGOs; local media; and representatives of corporations and foundations.

After all the forums have been completed, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force will publish a summary report on the project and recommend guidelines to help others create and maintain community alliances.

The Sponsors

The **Heritage Emergency National Task Force** is a partnership of 34 federal agencies and national service organizations sponsored by the nonprofit Heritage Preservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It was formed in 1995 to help libraries and archives, museums, historical societies, and historic sites protect their collections from natural disasters and other emergencies. Since its founding, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force has been the liaison between FEMA and the cultural community. It has been a catalyst for change for both cultural heritage leaders and emergency management professionals. The Task Force brings to the project its own success as a partnership, a broad knowledge of cultural heritage needs and resources, and experience in uniting diverse interests.

The Fidelity Foundation and the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund have given Heritage Preservation a grant to help the Task Force launch the Alliance for Response initiative. Each Alliance for Response Forum will be conducted with the help and support of local sponsors.

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