

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS:

What cultural institutions have to offer in an emergency:

- Their damages may be useful in getting a declaration of disaster in a community
- They have space and other resources that might be used in an emergency, such as meeting rooms, information technology, vehicles, etc.
- Reopening a cultural institution may bring a sense of normalcy back to community following a disaster, and they bring tourism back to an area
- Some cultural institutions have records that are vital to the continued functioning and economic viability of a community

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CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS:

PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS

CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES:

Ice Storms, Floods and Fires can and do happen in Massachusetts.

Between 2005 and 2009, there were 4 major disasters and 3 emergencies declared in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

How will your organization fare during an emergency?

Emergency responders will protect lives and infrastructure first. Who will preserve your organization's unique documents, photos, recordings and other valuable cultural resources? Who will be sure that your organization can continue to operate in spite of any losses?

It can be days before outside emergency assistance is available: does your organization have the tools in place to manage on your own until help arrives?

Don't Wait: Take the first steps to create a resilient organization:

Cultural heritage resources are organizations such as libraries, archives, museums, historic properties, historical societies, public records repositories, town or city halls, or other repositories. These institutions collect and care for non-living individual objects and collections with artistic, educational, historic, scientific, social or economic importance to a community. They might include furniture, textiles, archaeological specimens, works of art, books, archives, etc.

Identify the risks and hazards facing your organization:

Develop your own disaster plan to identify risks, priorities, and procedures to follow in an emergency. Disaster planning will also help you identify resources you can offer others. Take advantage of tools such as dplan.org and the nedcc.org Worksheet for Outlining a Disaster Plan.

Complete a Cultural Resources Disaster Information Form for your organization. Available online: *needs to be posted on mbic site –pbwiki not reliable?*. Make sure your Emergency Management Director has one, and share a copy with your community cultural spokesperson.

Connect with other cultural heritage resources in your community:

What resources can you offer each other? Based on your disaster planning process you will be able to determine area you will need help with in the event of an emergency. You will also be also know what resources you have available to help others in your community.

Introduce yourself to your local Emergency Management Director:

Contact your local town or city hall to determine the Emergency Management Director in your community. Or check out www.mass.gov/mema for a full list of Emergency Management Directors in Massachusetts.

Be sure your organization is included in your community's Comprehensive Emergency Plan

Inquire as to ways your organization can be of use during an emergency. For example, might be able to offer vehicles, meeting rooms, wireless access, or expertise.

Become a part of COSTEP-MA, Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness.

Who will be the spokespeople for Cultural Heritage Resources in your community in the event of an emergency?

In an emergency, the Emergency Management Director will be inundated with reports and requests. COSTEP-MA can help you set up a structure in your community to improve and clarify communication by designating spokespeople (and backups) who will receive reports from all community cultural heritage resources, and relay them to the Emergency Management Director directly.

