

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Institutions

Appalachian Studies Association Special Collections Committee

1. For tools to guide immediate recovery and salvage work for institutions, start with FEMA and the NEDCC

- **Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)**

- <https://www.fema.gov/>

- Tools to recover <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/recover>

- Save Your Family Treasures <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/recover/save-family-treasures>

- Process of Public Assistance Grants

- <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/process>

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters. FEMA has collected frequently used tools and information to help you communicate and get started with **the recovery process**. FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution co-sponsor the [Heritage Emergency National Task Force](#), a partnership of more than 60 national service organizations and federal agencies created to protect cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies. When an area has received a Presidential declaration of an emergency or major disaster, then its state, tribal, territorial and local governments — and **certain types of private non-profits** — may be eligible to apply for **Public Assistance (PA)**.

- **Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)** <https://www.nedcc.org/>

- Disaster Assistance <https://www.nedcc.org/working-with-nedcc/disaster-assistance>

- NEDCC's 24/7 Emergency Hotline 1-855-245-8303

NEDCC, founded in 1973 as a non-profit conservation center devoted to the conservation and preservation of paper-based materials, has as its mission: to improve the conservation efforts of libraries, archives, historical organizations, museums, and other repositories; to provide the highest quality services to institutions without in-house conservation facilities or those that seek specialized expertise; and to provide leadership in the preservation and conservation fields. **NEDCC staff members are available 24/7 to provide telephone advice to institutions and individuals handling collection-related disasters. Information provided includes advice on drying wet collections and dealing with damage from fire, pests, and mold. This service does not include on-site assistance.**

2. Additional resources

- **Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)** ccaaha.org
 - Emergency Resource Documents
https://ccaaha.org/resources?field_resource_category_target_id=33&field_resource_type_target_id=All&combine=
 - [Immediate Assistance](https://ccaaha.org/resources?field_resource_category_target_id=33&field_resource_type_target_id=All&combine=) 215.545.0613

Since 1977, CCAHA has been a nonprofit, full-service facility with experts in a range of disciplines. Their mission is to provide expertise and leadership in the preservation of cultural heritage. Our conservators repair and stabilize books, photographs, works of art on paper, and documents. Our preservation services staff works in the field, providing education programs and helping institutions plan for the future of their collections. We also offer digitization services, fundraising assistance, framing, and more. **CCAHA provides emergency assistance for institutions and individuals with damaged paper-based collections.**

- **American Institute for Conservation (AIC)**
 - National Heritage Responders: 1-202-661-8068
 - <https://www.culturalheritage.org/resources/emergencies/national-heritage-responders>

AIC's National Heritage Responders (NHR) is a highly skilled team of conservators and other collections care professionals with expertise in emergency response. NHR members provide advice and on-site response to institutions via the hotline number listed above. All assistance provided by the NHR is free. Less urgent questions can also be answered by emailing info@conservation-us.org. Individuals and the general public should email NHRpublichelpline@culturalheritage.org for advice.

- **National Archives (NARA)** <https://www.archives.gov/>
 - Records Recovery <https://www.archives.gov/preservation/records-emergency>

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. **NARA has developed resources to help federal agencies, as well as state, local and tribal authorities, and others to prepare for and manage records emergencies.** There are also links to useful resources from other agencies and organizations.

- **Society of American Archivists (SAA)** <https://www2.archivists.org/>
 - Documenting in Times of Crisis Resource Kit
<https://www2.archivists.org/advocacy/documenting-in-times-of-crisis-a-resource-kit>

Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America's oldest and largest national professional association dedicated to the needs and interests of

archives and archivists. SAA represents more than 6,200 professional archivists employed by governments, universities, businesses, libraries, and historical organizations nationally. **In the event of a natural disaster impacting your repository, the SAA Foundation's [**National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives \(NDRFA\)**](#) stands ready to provide critical assistance.** With grants of up to \$5,000 available for immediate recovery efforts, the NDRFA offers a lifeline to help you navigate the challenging aftermath of a disaster. Applications are processed quickly, with grants typically awarded within 7–10 business days. **Don't hesitate to seek help: [review the guidelines and submit](#) your application to access the support you need to restore and preserve your valuable collections.**

- **Kentucky Heritage Emergency Response Network (KHERN)**

<https://www.khern.org/>

- KHERN partners directly with the **National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER).**

<https://www.ncaper.org/>

- Resources <https://www.khern.org/resources>

Formed in 2022 in response to the tornadoes in Western Kentucky and flooding in Eastern Kentucky, the Kentucky Heritage Emergency Response Network (KHERN) **seeks to assist arts and culture organizations and artists in times of crisis. KHERN also aims to increase preparedness, provide resources, and build relationships among cultural heritage institutions.** KHERN partners directly with the **National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER)**. With support from the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) and in collaboration with the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC), these **new online assessment forms will help identify where assistance is sought, provide assistance where needed, understand critical needs, and inform recovery efforts moving forward.** Also, recent changes to FEMA and HENTF have made it easier to deliver aid to communities and individuals and may make aid more accessible to artists, entrepreneurs, self-employed individuals, as well as cultural institutions and arts organizations.

- **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** <https://www.neh.gov/>

- Emergency and Disaster Relief [Emergency and Disaster Relief | National Endowment for the Humanities.](#)

NEH is the only federal agency in the United States dedicated to funding the humanities. NEH grants support the building blocks of American civil society, helping to examine the human condition, promote civics education, understand our cultural heritage, foster mutual respect for diverse beliefs and cultures, and develop media and information literacy. **The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) regularly provides emergency funding to cultural institutions such as archives, museums, libraries, historic sites, and colleges in the wake of natural disasters such as flooding, mudslides, hurricanes, and wildfire.**

- **American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)** <https://aaslh.org/>
 - Resource Center <https://learn.aaslh.org/>

The American Association for State and Local History is a national membership association dedicated to helping the history community thrive. For the better part of a century, AASLH has provided leadership and resources to its members who preserve and interpret state and local history to make the past more meaningful to all people. AASLH is the professional association for history-doers. **The AASLH Resource Center is a collection of resources designed to help you do good history. Here you can register for upcoming professional development events and build your personal library from recent History News issues and Technical Leaflets, recorded webinars, and audio recordings.**

- **Conservation Online (CoOL)** [Conservation OnLine - CoOL \(culturalheritage.org\)](http://www.conservationsonline.org/)

“Conservation OnLine (CoOL) is a freely accessible platform to generate and disseminate vital resources for those working to preserve cultural heritage worldwide. Through the support of the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation, CoOL is committed to growing and sustaining these resources.”

- **National Library of Medicine (NIH) Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources**
 - Resource Center: [Emergency Preparedness and Response: How to Safely Conserve Library Treasures in the Case of an Emergency \(nih.gov\)](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/ehp/)

“In the event of an emergency or disaster, every library and cultural heritage institution should have a written plan in place to protect valuable collections. This multimedia emergency response website contains explanatory text and video clips that will demonstrate salvage and recovery procedures for historic and general collection materials affected by water.”