Cultural Collections: Before and After a Disaster

October 17, 2013 Pueblo Public Library, Pueblo, Colorado
November 7, 2013, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado

Scott Baldwin, Colorado Office of Emergency Management
Victoria Montana Ryan, Conservator, Art Care Services
Carl Stewart, University of Colorado Boulder
Dr. Rebecca Hunt, University of Colorado Denver
Amy Zimmer, Colorado State Library
Leslie Williams, University of Colorado Denver
Dana EchoHawk, Center for Colorado & the West, University of Colorado Denver
“One of the most effective things we can do to prepare for emergencies is to provide ourselves with training and an increased awareness of disaster response”.

The Getty Center “Emergency Planning Handbook”
Overview

Introduction
- Disaster Cycle

Institutional Preparedness
- Key Elements
- Resources

Beyond Institutional Preparedness
- Coordination of an Incident
- Colorado’s Cultural & Historic Resources Alliance
- Going Beyond
Disaster Cycle

Image credit: http://www.meetup.com/North-Dakota-Preparedness/

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Institutional Preparedness: Key Elements

- Risk Assessment
- Mitigation (e.g. store collection off the ground)
- Disaster Plan (e.g. Pocket Plan)
- Insurance Coverage
- Camera (e.g. photographic documentation required to qualify for FEMA public assistance to pay for debris removal)
- Employee & Volunteer Contact Information
- Institutional Financial Information
- Inventory of collection (e.g. finding aids)
- Staff Training (e.g. Tabletop Exercises)

“Emergency preparedness and planning is a matter of common sense and responsibility.”

John Walsh,
The J. Paul Getty Museum
Institutional Preparedness: Resources

Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel App

Colorado Connecting to Collections
Resource List

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu/preservation-help

Image credit: http://www.heritagepreservation.org/wheel/

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Getting to Know
Your Local First Responders

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Coordination of an Incident

- Type I or II Incident Management Team (IMT)
- State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activation
- Deployment of regional resources through MOUs
- Incident Management Team (IMT)
- City/County Emergency Operations Center

(Williams and Baldwin, 2012)

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Where Do Cultural Heritage Organizations Fit?

- Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local
- Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11d
  - ESF 11: Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - ESF 11d: Cultural & Historic Resources
- Recovery Support Function (RSF) 10
  - Historic & Cultural Resources

The Hewlett Gulch Fire
May, 2012


(Williams et al., 2013)
Why is CCAHRA needed?

• Recognize highest priorities include:
  – Life safety
  – Property protection
  – Primary home dwellings
  – Public infrastructure
  – Private enterprise

• Acknowledge cultural and historic resources fall below these on the priority list.

• Imperative that we take responsibility for ourselves and collaborate with emergency management.

• Then great things will happen.

(Williams et al., 2013)
CCAHRA In Action


http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Beyond Institutional Preparedness

- Build relationships now with your local first responders and emergency management office
- Connect now with the Colorado Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance (CCAHRA)
- Actively monitor developing events that might affect your institution
- Alert local emergency management office and CCAHRA before you run out of time and exhaust your local resources to allow time for assistance to be coordinated
- Track all of your institution’s paid and volunteer hours during an event and any expenses incurred to evacuate collections, to take protective measures for buildings and sites, and to respond to the event
- Report expenses to your local emergency management office as soon as possible

(Williams and Baldwin, 2012)
The Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library (CC&W) at the University of Colorado Denver Downtown Campus has been awarded the Colorado Connecting to Collections from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS)

Collaborative partners:
Interesting Survey Statistics
(Colorado Connecting to Collections 2009)

• **Survey Question:**
  In the past five years has your institution experienced any disaster that damaged collections, the facilities, or the grounds?

  **41.3% of respondents said YES!**

• **Survey Question:**
  Do you have a fire extinguisher?

  95% of facilities have fire extinguishers

  However, 59% of those institutions had no fire extinguisher training!

• **Survey Question:**
  What was the cause of a disaster at your institution?

  The #1 cause of disasters (in our high-dry desert climate)

  **Water leakage** (e.g. pipe damage, roof damage, human-caused) 80.4%
Colorado Connecting to Collections

Five Key Goals

1. Create a network of trained preservation assessors

2. Build sustaining culture of preservation and development of emergency plans

3. Encourage responsibility for collections care

4. Increase awareness of collections needs

5. Build a collaboration among archives, libraries, museums, professional organizations and emergency management offices.

LISTSERV: email dana.echohawk@ucdenver.edu
Colorado Connecting to Collections

Is your institution home to a significant Colorado artifact?

Plan to nominate your treasured artifact or collection and help build recognition of Colorado’s treasured objects, photographs, documents, maps, art, manuscripts and more.

collectioncare.auraria.edu
information on the nomination process and online voting

- Documents
- Books
- Photographs
- Recordings
- Artwork
- 3 dimensional items
- Other

Nominations begin
August 1, Colorado Day!
Check our website for details

Colorado’s 10 Most Significant Artifacts

Learn more »
Dana EchoHawk
project manager | 303.566.5818
dana.echohawk@ucdenver.edu
www.collectioncare.auraria.edu

10 Most Significant Artifacts & Collections
A campaign celebrating Colorado’s most treasured items: a catalyst for statewide publicity of the importance for collections care and the role that individual artifacts hold in Colorado history.

This grants is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Colorado Connecting to Collections initiative is managed by the Center for Colorado & the West at Auraria Library as a collaborative partnership with the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums (CWAM), the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA), the Colorado State Library (CSL) and History Colorado.

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu

Thank you for attending our morning session!

Our afternoon session with Victoria Montana Ryan will begin immediately after lunch.
Thank you!

www.collectioncare.auraria.edu

Planning Committee

Scott Baldwin: scott.baldwin@state.co.us
Dana EchoHawk: dana.echohawk@ucdenver.edu
Dr. Rebecca Hunt: rebecca.hunt@ucdenver.edu
Carl Stewart: carl.stewart@colorado.edu
Amy Zimmer: zimmer_a@cde.state.co.us
Leslie Williams: leslie.williams@ucdenver.edu
Victoria Montana Ryan: acs@artcareservices.com

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu