Saving Ourselves:

Disaster Preparedness in the Age of Global Climate Change

*It is better to have it and never need it than to need it and not have it.*
When a disaster strikes: Three case studies

- Crimson Dawn Museum, Casper, Wyoming
  - September 9-17, 2012
  - Sheepherder Hill fire
- Ute Pass History Park, Woodland Park, Colorado
  - June 23-July 10, 2012
- Windsor, Colorado, 2008
  - tornado
  - May 22, 2008
Sheepherder Hill fire
Waldo Canyon fire
Windsor, Colorado May 22, 2008
What is a disaster plan?

• It allocates resources including staff, money and equipment to prevent and potentially recover from a natural or man-made disaster.

• The disaster plan allows you to be prepared before the event.

• You create the plan then practice to be ready.
Creating a plan

• It starts with institutional leadership
• Be willing to face the fact that a disaster might strike
• It is not just internal: build networks
Stages of a plan

• Put someone in charge
• Assess your strengths
• Assess your liabilities and potential problems
• Create a network of first responders both internal and external
• Write it down
• Allocate resources
• Practice, practice, practice
• Face the disaster
• After action: What worked or did not work
• Fine tune for the next time you hope never comes.
Heritage Preservation: The National Institute for Conservation

http://www.heritagepreservation.org

Resources:

- U.S. Geological Service Natural Hazards program
- [http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/swtornadoescultural.html#CO](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/swtornadoescultural.html#CO)
- [http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/swtornadoescultural.html#WY](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/swtornadoescultural.html#WY)
Resources:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - http://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate
  - http://www.fema.gov/mitigation/protect-your-property
  - http://www.fema.gov/response-recovery
  - http://www.fema.gov/disaster-survivor-assistance
Resources: Archives

• National Archives
  – http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/vital-records/

• RescuingRecords.com
  http://www.rescuingrecords.com/index.html
Background on Current Initiatives

Or, how Colorado is working to “Save Ourselves” in this Climate Change Era

Leigh A. Grinstead, Digital Services Consultant, LYRASIS
Agenda

• Connecting to Collections planning
• Alliance for Response
• Action! Colorado: Colorado Connecting to Collections
• Peer to Peer training and preservation assessments
Connecting to Collections

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Interesting Survey statistics

• 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!**
• 95% of facilities have fire extinguishers—**Great!**
• However, 59% of those institutions have had no fire extinguisher training...
• The #1 cause of disasters (in our high-dry desert climate)
  – *Water leakage* (e.g. pipe damage, roof damage, human-caused) 80.4%
• When you add up the “Nos,” the “don’t knows” and “no, but one is being prepared” we had **74.3% without a current written disaster plan**
• 83% said they have **NO Digital Preservation Plan**—But 94% said they expect to retain their digital collections more than 10 years...
The Alliance for Response

http://www.heritagepreservation.org/afr/

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Denver Alliance for Response

• The creation of a Denver Alliance for Response Forum was held on September 25, 2010 at the Denver Public Library

• From that Forum a local listserv was created used to send out information from the Denver Emergency Management Office and to highlight training opportunities

• In August 2011 a survey of Forum participants was conducted to understand progress with preparedness efforts...
Moving from Denver to a Statewide focus
January, 2012

- Denver Alliance for Response members, met with the Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM)
- CDEM creates a Cultural Resources Task Force
- Quarterly meetings
- Cooperation and coordination with CDEM during the fire season of 2012
Late 2012

• IMLS awards $248,130 for Action!
  *Colorado Connecting to Collections*
Peer to Peer Assessors

• Preservation training workshop for 10 assessors on May, 20\textsuperscript{th}
• Over the next two years these assessors will conduct 25 two-hour traditional preservation site visits
• Assessors will also have training and support
Contact Information

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COLORADO CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS

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:
C2C Workshops
(No Charge)

- **April 26, 2013:** CWAM Conference
  Collection Guardianship: Preservation Policy Development

- **June 25, 2013:** Colorado Springs
  Are You Ready?: Testing Your Disaster Plan
  Presented by WESTPAS
  [http://www.westpas.org/courses.html#areyouready](http://www.westpas.org/courses.html#areyouready)

- **July 17, 2013:** Glenwood Springs
  Protecting Cultural Collections: Prevention & Preparedness
  Presented by WESTPAS
  [http://www.westpas.org/courses.html#protecting](http://www.westpas.org/courses.html#protecting)

- **August 14, 2013:** Glenwood Springs
  Protecting Cultural Collections: Response & Recovery
  Presented by WESTPAS
  [http://www.westpas.org/courses.html#protecting](http://www.westpas.org/courses.html#protecting)
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.
“Perhaps it is human nature to deny what we cannot predict. . . preparation for the unseen is, or should be, a daily activity”.

Jerry Podany, The J. Paul Getty Museum
Why Disaster Planning?

“Have you ever thought about what you would grab first if your house were on fire?

Most of us, after making sure that our loved ones and pets were safe, would probably reach for the irreplaceable symbols of our family’s history, including photographs, baby books, home movies, yearbooks, and Grandmother’s love letters.”

Hillary Rodham Clinton
“Saving America’s Treasures”
“Emergency preparedness and planning is a matter of common sense and responsibility”.

John Walsh,
The J. Paul Getty Museum
Colorado Connecting to Collections

Assisting Colorado's cultural heritage institutions to provide safe conditions for their collections.

Home | About | Programs | Resources | Collection Advocacy

Announcements

EVENT
Preservation Week: Pass It On
April 21 to April 27

WORKSHOP
Saving Ourselves: Disaster Preparedness in the Climate Change Era
April 25

WORKSHOP
Collection Guardianship: Preservation Policy Development
April 26

More>

Resources

Workshops
Learn from field professionals about collection preservation.

Go>

Preservation Assessments
Read about Colorado Connecting to Collections surveys and assessments.

Go>

Preservation Help
Find resources for collection care, planning, and disaster preparedness.

Go>

EMK Loaner Program
Reserve and borrow emergency management kit equipment.

Go>

Preservation Advocacy Tool-Kit
Promote care and preservation for collections.

Go>
www.collectioncare.auraria.edu:

- Workshops
- Helpful resources
- Environmental Monitoring Loaner Kit
- Preservation Assessments
- Digital Readiness Assessments
- Peer-to-peer surveyor training
Regional Workshops
Protecting Cultural Collections:
Disaster Response and Recovery of Collections

Sponsored by:
Colorado Connecting to Collections
Colorado Historic and Resources Task Force

Presenters:
Leslie Williams / Scott Baldwin / Victoria Montana Ryan
Emergency managers
Local first responders
Professional conservator

Attendees will:
• Learn practical decision-making skills during an emergency
• Experience using fire extinguishers
• Become familiar with the process of first responders during a disaster
• Experience salvaging a variety of material (books, documents, photos and objects)
In any major emergency, you will be working with local emergency responders to save and secure your institution. If you have a good relationship with your local emergency responders and know how their systems and practices work, you can help them keep your staff and collections safe.

Locations:
Protecting Cultural Collections: Disaster Response and Recovery of Collections

Beginning October, 2013
(Schedule to be announced)

- Fort Collins
- Boulder
- Pueblo
The greatest danger today facing our historic legacy in all our museums, libraries and archives is...

...the lack of preservation disaster planning

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

John Walsh,
The J. Paul Getty Museum
We need to encourage and invigorate our community leaders to understand the importance of safeguarding our collections held in trust.
Is your institution home to a significant Colorado artifact or collection?

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
Summer 2013

Colorado’s
10 Most Significant Artifacts & Collections

Learn more >>
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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.

http://collectioncare.auraria.edu
Saving Ourselves: Disaster Preparedness in the Climate Change Era

“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”
Thank you!

www.Collectioncare.auraria.edu