

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Appendix
Cultural and Historic Resources – ESF #11d
State Emergency Operations Plan**

LEAD AGENCY: Department of Agriculture (Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance (primary), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), History Colorado, University of Colorado System Libraries, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

PURPOSE:

Coordinate efforts of federal, state, local, voluntary, and private resources to assist, preserve, and protect public, private, and tribal, cultural and historic resources during and after a natural or man-made emergency or disaster. For the purposes of this document, cultural and historic resources refers to historic properties and collections residing in places such as libraries, archives, museums, public records repositories. They may include a variety of items such as furniture, textiles, archaeological specimens, works of art and books.

Specifically, ESF #11d will:

- A. Manage and coordinate appropriate response and recovery actions to protect, preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, recover and restore cultural and historic resources during a disaster event in the state of Colorado; and
- B. Provide personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies involved in cultural and historic resource protection efforts.

SCOPE:

The Cultural and Historic Appendix augments the ESF #11 Annex by addressing the specialized knowledge, skills, and procedures required to support the needs of cultural and historic resources during an emergency. In support of this goal, the Cultural and Historic Resources Appendix will define a structure for carrying out the following activities during disaster response and recovery operations. Specifically, the ESF #11d representative(s) will:

1. Act as a central location for disaster response information and coordinate cooperative response efforts by connecting affected institutions to appropriate mutual aid and voluntary or private disaster recovery services.
2. Provide situational awareness of the location of cultural and historic resources in relation to a disaster event and ensure this information is properly communicated up the incident command structure.
3. Provide emergency response/assistance to organizations responsible for the care and preservation of culturally and historically significant resources when and if the emergency is beyond the response capacity or resources of the organization.

4. Provide a platform for coordinated response and application of protective measures and strategies during response and recovery phases of an incident as well as the activation of trained personnel to provide technical assistance to impacted resources during the response and recovery phases of a disaster event.
5. Provide guidance and, if necessary, coordination and assistance in long-term recovery strategies.
6. Disseminate information regarding recommended cultural and historic resource preservation and protection measures via the Colorado Office of Emergency Management's Public Information Officer (PIO) and the Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance listserv. Providing consistent messaging in coordination with the PIO.
7. Coordinate damage assessment of sites impacted by a disaster with supporting agencies with the requisite knowledge and expertise of the collection type damaged to provide adequate support and recommendations.

POLICIES:

The Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance, as the State coordinator of ESF #11d, organizes the ESF staff and response and recovery initiatives. The Task Force organizes and coordinates the capabilities and resources available to the State to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, expertise, and other support for incidents impacting this appendix. The Alliance will coordinate initial response and protection of these sites and collections during an emergency, working with local preservationists, state and federal officials, as well as those coordinating response to the incident, such as the Incident Management Team.

- A. The Cultural and Historic Resources Alliance, comprised of state and local preservationists, will support ESF #11 response and recovery activities relating to cultural and historic resources during a disaster, relying on the subject matter expertise of the Alliance to support these activities.
- B. Actions undertaken under ESF#11 to protect, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore cultural and historic resources are guided by the existing internal policies and procedures of the local institution impacted by the incident.
- C. This appendix will use the Incident Command System (ICS).

SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS:

- A. While giving precedence to life safety and property concerns, attention must be paid to the role of cultural and historic resources in restoring communities to their previous condition as much as possible. Proactive measures taken during the response and recovery phases of an incident can have significant psychological, social, civic and economic influence on a community impacted by a disaster event.
- B. Public and private historic resources are the ultimate responsibility of their respective caretakers. All cultural and historic institutions are responsible for their own internal disaster

mitigation and preparedness planning. These plans are expected to be enacted if at all possible prior to seeking external assistance.

- C. A significant incident can quickly overwhelm the response capabilities of individual cultural/historic institutions and local governments. Exposure to hazardous materials and conditions in a natural or man-made disaster can have long-term, irreversible effects upon documents and cultural and historic resources. The potential for these types of incidents necessitates the need for individual institutions to create a comprehensive plan to address potential long-term harm as quickly and effectively as is reasonably possible utilizing local resources and mutual aid to assist organizations in the proper and timely execution of their disaster response plans.
- D. Coordinated state and/or federal assistance will be necessary to augment local resources when appropriate. The Cultural and Historic Resources Annex will be engaged when the magnitude of the emergency/disaster is such that it is beyond the capabilities and physical resources of the individual institutions and local resource to protect and recover their collections.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:

It is assumed (but not required) that the following activities have occurred prior to the activation of the Cultural and Historic Resources Annex:

- A. Local jurisdictions have taken all necessary actions to respond to the emergency prior to requesting assistance from the State of Colorado.
- B. Local jurisdictions have called upon local resources, including implementing mutual aid and cooperative agreements for additional services and personnel.