



ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSE, NYC

A FORUM FOR THE CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMUNITY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

15 April 2009

To the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Community:

The Alliance for Response, NYC local committee is pleased to invite you to the group's opening lecture at the American Museum of Natural History.

Alliance for Response, NYC is a local organization focused on connecting emergency responders with representatives of the cultural heritage community. Our goal is to strengthen mitigation and response capabilities through training exercises, development of local planning efforts and improved dialogue and partnerships. The organization is composed of staff from cultural institutions (security, facilities, health/safety, collections/conservation, and administration), first responders (NYPD, FDNY, OEM, FEMA) and related industries (insurance/risk management, recovery companies).

The Alliance for Response, NYC initiative began with a one-day forum for cultural leaders and emergency professionals held at the Jewish Museum in October of 2004, and co-sponsored with Heritage Preservation (www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/). Those attending included high-level NYC emergency officials, museum directors, curators, administrators, conservators, and insurance professionals. The NYC Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, Kate Levin, delivered the keynote address and there was an excellent program with panels focused on building relationships with first responders, emergency communications, and business continuity and disaster recovery.

We are very excited to revive these efforts with such an energetic and inspiring group of professionals. In its initial phases, we foresee the group developing lectures and training programs for both the cultural and emergency communities. Such programs will be expanded for members to bring back to their institutions for in-house training.

The first program has been developed by the New York City Office of Emergency Management and will outline that office's purview, discuss their five-fold mission (plan, prepare, coordinate, education and disseminate information), and present tools and initiatives they have developed for the community at large (Ready New York, Notify NYC, CEAS).

'OEM 101'

Lt. Christopher Matousek, NYC Office of Emergency Management

**Wednesday May 13, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Kaufmann Theater, American Museum of Natural History
enter at the Central Park West security entrance**

RSVP by May 8th: lelkin@amnh.org

Please feel free to share this announcement with colleagues and peers who you feel would benefit from involvement with this group. We look forward to seeing you.

Yours Sincerely,

Lisa Kronthal Elkin
Chair, Alliance for Response, NYC