

Philadelphia Alliance for Response
First Followup Meeting, 9/18/07
Summary Report
By Tom Clareson, PALINET

The second meeting of the Philadelphia Alliance for Response group attracted nearly 40 attendees to follow up on key issues from the initial meeting of the group on June 13, 2007.

The group heard from Tom Clareson, PALINET, about plans from the City's Managing Director of Emergency Management and Preparedness, Mary Ann Marrocolo, to send an Emergency Management Liaison Designation form to the CEO of each Cultural Heritage Institution in the Philadelphia area in order to identify a specific contact person in the case of emergencies. (*NOTE: This letter was sent on October 10 from Commissioner of Records Joan Decker and MaryAnn Marrocolo; please work with your institution's administration to complete and return the form as soon as possible.*) Marrocolo's office is also working on Incident Notification systems for cultural heritage institutions and linking to the City's Emergency Operations Center.

Robert Cheetham of Avencia spoke about the upcoming creation of a Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) database of Philadelphia cultural heritage institutions, which will be able to be used for disaster planning and recovery purposes. He will keep the Alliance for Response group updated on the progress of this project at future meetings.

The group heard an update from the Delaware Disaster Assistance Team (D-DAT), a new group that has been formed in the State of Delaware by the Division of Libraries and the State Archives and Records Center to assist libraries, archives, and other cultural heritage institutions in planning for and recovering from disasters. The group has held two initial meetings, and has also developed a grant proposal to fund further expansion of their activities. In other consortial news, the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL) is forming a new Disaster Preparedness Committee, which will be headed up by Joan Decker and will initially shadow the Alliance's efforts in terms of programming, but will also welcome non-PACSCL representatives and will make improved communications one of its priorities.

Laura Hartz Stanton, Preservation Services Director for the Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, led discussion on the types of disaster preparedness/mitigation/recovery training and assistance needed by Alliance institutions. During this discussion, Leslie Simon and Laura McHale of the National Archives and Records Administration, Mid-Atlantic Region discussed their initial planning in the development of a series of disaster plan writing events they hope to sponsor in Spring 2008.

Tom Clareson, Program Director for New Initiatives, PALINET, outlined steps for developing mutual aid agreements, and discussed the key elements of some existing mutual aid documents in use in California. Please see the San Diego-area plan at <http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/sildrn/mutualaidagreement.html> and the Riverside/Inland Empire plan at <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/bytopic/disasters/misc/mutual.html>. Clareson asked that if any interested institutions in the audience decides to explore developing this type of agreement, they report back on their efforts at upcoming Alliance for Response meetings.

The group is planning to meet again in December to address "Avoiding Holiday Disasters and Winterizing Your Building." Please hold the afternoon of December 4 on your calendar, and we will be back in contact with further details soon.