

MISSION STATEMENT FOR SEATTLE HERITAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK (SHERN)

The Seattle Heritage Emergency Response Network (SHERN) helps archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and other heritage organizations in Seattle to respond to emergencies and disasters affecting cultural resources and collections. Members help each other by providing advice, support and/or actual recovery assistance. Membership in the Network constitutes a commitment by an organization to make disaster preparedness and staff training an administrative priority.

The objectives of the Network are:

- 1) To promote awareness of potential emergency and disaster situations in Seattle and measures that members can take to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters;
- 2) To assist member organizations in the development of their disaster and collection salvage plans;
- 3) To facilitate or organize workshops and seminars to help members acquire the expertise needed to cope with emergencies and disasters;
- 4) To prepare and disseminate to any interested archive, historical society, library, museum or other heritage organization lists of local preservation and disaster services, supplies and suppliers, and resource persons, etc. to supplement state-wide and national resources;
- 5) To acquire, on a cooperative basis, supplies and equipment to support the disaster preparedness and collection salvage programs of member organizations;
- 6) To set up subcommittees and task forces to deal with specific, identified problems;
- 7) To facilitate partnerships between members and local first responders and emergency managers before disasters in order to enhance cooperation and understanding;
- 8) To cooperate with other disaster response networks in Washington and encourage the development of similar networks in greater King County and other Washington counties.