

**Utah Alliance for Response Forum
November 2, 2011
State Office Building Auditorium, Salt Lake City
MEETING SUMMARY**

On November 2, 2011, Heritage Preservation sponsored the Utah Alliance for Response Forum in Salt Lake City. More than 80 participants joined distinguished speakers in an effort to launch the formation of a regional network that will raise the profile of cultural heritage in the world of emergency response. Participants discussed how cultural institutions could maximize their effectiveness in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery endeavors. The day-long event focused on building partnerships to prepare for "the Big One," a seismic event along the Wasatch Front. The Utah Forum was the 20th Forum sponsored by Heritage Preservation's Alliance for Response initiative since 2003 and was also the third and final forum of 2011.

The day began with a welcome from Patricia Smith-Mansfield, State Archivist and Director of the Utah State Archives and Records Service, and Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian at the University of Utah's Marriott Library. Both Randy and Patricia stressed the importance of this groundbreaking forum and its long-term impact on the state's cultural institutions. The forum's facilitator, Barclay Ogden, Director of Library Preservation at UC Berkeley, outlined forum goals of not only inspiring participants to think more seriously about emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, but also creating actionable goals for moving Utah Alliance for Response forward.

Lori Foley, Vice President of Emergency Programs at Heritage Preservation, then spoke about the importance of establishing strong relationships with emergency managers and first responders. She encouraged cultural institutions to invite their emergency response community to their facilities and share vital information such as floor plans, priority collections, hazardous materials, and utility shut-offs. Strong relationships between the two communities will mean more effective response in the event of a crisis. Other Alliance networks nationwide have had significant success influencing local emergency management policy after establishing these relationships. Lori stressed that there is no reason for Utah to reinvent the wheel as they move forward. Successful frameworks exist from other networks and can be tailored to fit the unique needs of the region. Additional resources are available on the Heritage Preservation website, www.heritagepreservation.org.

Randy Silverman then shared his recent experience in Minot, North Dakota, where he assisted the Ward County Historical Society's effort to recover from a devastating flood. Minot, he said, could serve as a valuable lesson to Utah. Prior to the June 2011 flood, residents of Minot were warned their area would likely flood; both history and current reports suggested it was more than a possibility. Many residents heeded warnings and took action. The State Fairgrounds took action by constructing an earthen berm to keep flood waters at bay. Sadly, the Ward County Historical Society, located within the Fairgrounds, was not protected and suffered severe flood damage. The damage was even more devastating when it was revealed that nearly 90% of the Society's holdings were unique to Ward County and were irreplaceable. Recovery has been slow. Seven weeks passed before AIC-CERT conservators visited to stabilize books and artifacts. Objects that were not directly affected by the flood waters succumbed to mold after sitting in dank conditions for so long. When Randy joined the efforts he noticed conservators were spending a significant amount of time assessing individual objects instead of asking how the Society would move forward. To compound the tragedy, the Society's Director passed away at the end of

September while attending a conference in Boston. Randy stressed that preventive measures could have been taken to mitigate much of the damage in Minot.

Randy's case study was followed by a panel discussion on first responders' roles in protecting cultural property. Judy Watanabe, Operations Bureau Chief at Utah Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security, began the discussion by pointing out the benefits of participating in the upcoming Utah ShakeOut. Judy, the Point of Contact for the exercise, explained that the activity will help prepare the area to face a likely earthquake. The exercise, taking place April 17 – April 19, 2012, will simulate a 7.0 magnitude earthquake during winter while children are in school. A catastrophic plan will be finalized shortly to address the region's needs in response to such an event. Judy explained that while planning for this scenario they discovered a number of utilities, including power and water, could be out for months, fuel will become a major concern, and hospitals will quickly reach capacity. Judy said in the event of emergency she wants cultural institutions to be successful in recovery. Attending today's forum was a huge step in the right direction. Getting to know your first responders and sharing vital information with them about your institution are also crucial.

John Flynt, Community Preparedness Coordinator for the Salt Lake City Office of Emergency Management, reiterated Judy's remarks on getting to know first responders, but also stressed the importance of taking personal responsibility. During a crisis, he explained, it will come down to neighbors helping neighbors, and the cultural community will need to band together. Creating a COOP (Continuity of Operations) plan, keeping detailed collection maps in your building's Knox Box, taking CERT training, and designating a liaison between your institution and first responders are all steps that can be taken to ensure you're prepared when disaster strikes. John stressed that the more planning you can do in the beginning the better off you will be in the end.

To highlight the importance of preparedness, Jeffrey Graviat, Director of Salt Lake County Emergency Services, shared a personal story. Early in his career as a state trooper, Jeffrey's car slid from park to reverse while he was talking to a driver whom he'd pulled over. When he turned around his car was gone. Jeffrey said that all you can do in a moment like that is stand in shock, but you must make key decisions quickly that will affect the outcome of the event. This will be true in the event of a disaster. Being prepared in advance will help you solve problems efficiently in the moment and reduce the number of issues you must address. Jeffrey urged participants to prepare and take advantage of the numerous training opportunities on FEMA's website, www.fema.gov.

The panel's discussion was followed by a presentation by Brent Maxfield on accessing your facility after a disaster. Brent, a structural engineer for the Temple and Special Projects Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as well as for the Building Occupancy Resumption Program and Structural Engineers Emergency Response, explained that an earthquake will affect your facilities in two ways—drift and acceleration. Drift is how far your building will get pushed in the event of an earthquake. Acceleration will cause the contents within your facility to move even if your building holds up to drift. It's important, he said, to know how your building and your collections will perform in the event of an earthquake. Brent went further and explained the process of regaining access to your building after a quake. Trained inspectors will make their way around the region to assess each building for cracking, leaning, and other damage. Based upon their assessment they will either tag the building with a red plaque, meaning the building is deemed unsafe; a yellow plaque, declaring the building has restricted use; or a green plaque, which simply means the building was inspected. People often confuse a green plaque to mean the building is safe to enter when this isn't always the case. In the event of an earthquake, it would take a significant amount of time to tag every building, and it's likely your

organization will have to wait at least 72 hours before an inspector even arrives. The Structural Engineers Association of Utah is working to streamline the process, but it will take an effort. Another proposed program, the Building Occupancy Resumption Program, will allow building owners to take charge. The program would allow a jurisdiction to preauthorize a post-earthquake building inspection, ensuring that an engineer who knows your building can assess the damage in a timely manner. Brent hopes the program will be adopted shortly to provide an alternative to volunteer inspection.

With the first series of presentations finished, the group broke out into groups to discuss the question: What do heritage managers need to maximize the effectiveness of their organizations? After a half hour, each group shared their top three needs. There was consensus on a number of key needs, including establishing strong relationships with emergency responders, identifying risks and hazards, understanding your institution's holdings, and creating priorities.

After a brief working lunch, Douglas Bausch, Earthquake Program Manager and Senior Physical Scientist with FEMA Region VIII, shared assessments made for the ShakeOut exercise in 2012. Based upon a 7.0 earthquake, Bausch noted several discoveries regarding the aftermath of such a disaster. According to studies, Utah is highly susceptible to liquefaction, which will greatly affect potable water and sewer systems. It's likely that water and power could be out for weeks and even months. Transportation will become an issue. Approximately 90% of deaths will be caused by collapse of unreinforced masonry buildings. Furthermore, many of the area hospitals are located near the fault line and major ground movement areas, which will affect the number of beds available for victims. Douglas hopes this exercise will elicit more than 800,000 participants and encouraged forum attendees to register at www.shakeout.org/utah. He mentioned that the ShakeOut website also has numerous resources available to help prepare for an earthquake and mitigate damage.

David Prothero, Public Assistance Group Supervisor from FEMA Region VIII, then spoke about Public Assistance funding. David explained that FEMA's Public Assistance Group works with all entities not related to private housing and is available to help cultural institutions recover from disaster. David admitted the program can be slow moving and relies on a structured process. To receive funding, your area must receive a federal disaster declaration. Once this happens and you file your Request for Public Assistance, you will be visited by FEMA and state inspectors, who will assess your facility's damage. If you qualify, FEMA will cover 75% of the cost to repair your facility back to its pre-disaster state. The remaining 25% will be the responsibility of the institution or local government. The program can pay for building repairs and collection treatment, but it cannot replace irreplaceable objects. David stressed the importance of documentation during this process as FEMA will require you to pull records often.

Steve Hardegen, FEMA Regional Environmental Officer for Region VIII, followed David's presentation with information on additional FEMA funding programs. Steve explained that there are countless grants available both through FEMA and at the state level for mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. "There is a lot of funding opportunity out there," Steve said. "Ask some questions and find out what people have done." FEMA lists all of their grant opportunities on their website. He explained that FEMA and the state are always looking for good ideas to fund. If you're not funded at first, keep throwing your proposal into the ring. He also said that funding can be received for planning and preparedness, not just recovery or more structural and physical changes.

In the last break-out session of the day, participants were asked to answer the following question: What do emergency response planners and risk managers need to maximize their effectiveness in partnering with heritage manager? Many themes became apparent during the group discussion that mirrored the

earlier break-out session. All nine groups agreed that establishing clear channels of communication, building strong relationships with first responders, and gaining a better understanding of their institutions' holdings were critical. Additional suggestions included sharing local jurisdiction emergency plans with cultural institutions, asking emergency responders to invite cultural institution to the planning table, and creating a system of credentialing cultural heritage professionals to allow access to facilities once they're safe to enter.

The break-out session was followed by a discussion of the group's next steps with the goal of maintaining the group's momentum. Barclay Ogden encouraged organizations present to take on the responsibility of leading the way in the initiatives that were brainstormed during the break-out sessions. More than 11 professionals and organizations volunteered to take on a leadership role with challenges such as creating a COOP plan, hosting training workshops, and sharing examples of existing frameworks through a group listserv. Information will be freely shared in an online open forum.

At the conclusion of the day, the group agreed that the Utah Alliance for Response planning committee would take on a coordinating role, which included the creation of a group listserv. Participants were encouraged to join the committee if they were interested in taking a more hands-on role. Randy Silverman ended the forum by thanking presenters and participants, noting how wonderful it was to see such a sizeable turnout. He announced a follow-up forum would likely be conducted in the next quarter. In the meantime, Randy asked participants to think of themes for the next gathering and to continue feeding information into their listserv to keep the process rolling.