

ABOUT AIC-CERT

AIC-CERT (American Institute for Conservation Collections Emergency Response Team) responds to the needs of cultural institutions during emergencies and disasters through coordinated efforts with first responders, state agencies, vendors, and the public.

In 2007, the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC) received funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to train conservators and other library and museum professionals. These dynamic and highly successful workshops produced a group of 61 “rapid responders” who are trained to react to disasters.

The AIC-CERT program has developed into a cohesive volunteer group of strongly committed conservators and other collections care professionals who monitor disasters as they occur across the nation and respond accordingly.

The group provides assistance by phone and email to collecting institutions affected by everything from leaking pipes to roof damage. AIC-CERT has deployed experts to assist with major floods in the Midwest and Hurricane Ike, both in 2008, and to other events. After each event, information is shared and techniques are evaluated and refined by team members.

**For 24-hour assistance,
call (202) 661-8068**

ABOUT AIC

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) is a national membership organization supporting the professionals who preserve our cultural heritage. AIC plays a crucial role in establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, providing educational opportunities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public. Learn more about AIC at www.conservation-us.org.



ABOUT FAIC

FAIC, the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that increase understanding of our global cultural heritage. Learn more about FAIC at www.conservation-us.org/foundation.



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AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR
CONSERVATION

COLLECTIONS
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE
TEAM

Books damaged by 2008 Iowa floods. Photo by Vicki Lee



AIC-CERT AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION COLLECTIONS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

SALVAGING THE PAST FOR OUR FUTURE

AMERICA'S TREASURES AT RISK

From hurricanes and earthquakes to fires and leaking sprinkler systems, disasters can strike anywhere at anytime, and can pose threats to public health and safety, to infrastructure, and to America's cultural heritage. The Heritage Health Index, conducted by Heritage Preservation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services in 2005, found that 80% of collecting institutions in the U.S. did not have an emergency plan that included collections, with staff trained to carry it out. Even with a plan in place, museums, libraries, and archives can easily be overwhelmed by a catastrophic event, especially a regional disaster that also affects the personal lives of staff, their families, and the community at large. AIC-CERT can provide volunteer expertise for advice, coordination of salvage efforts, assessments, and referrals for a broad range of cultural materials.

AIC-CERT AT WORK

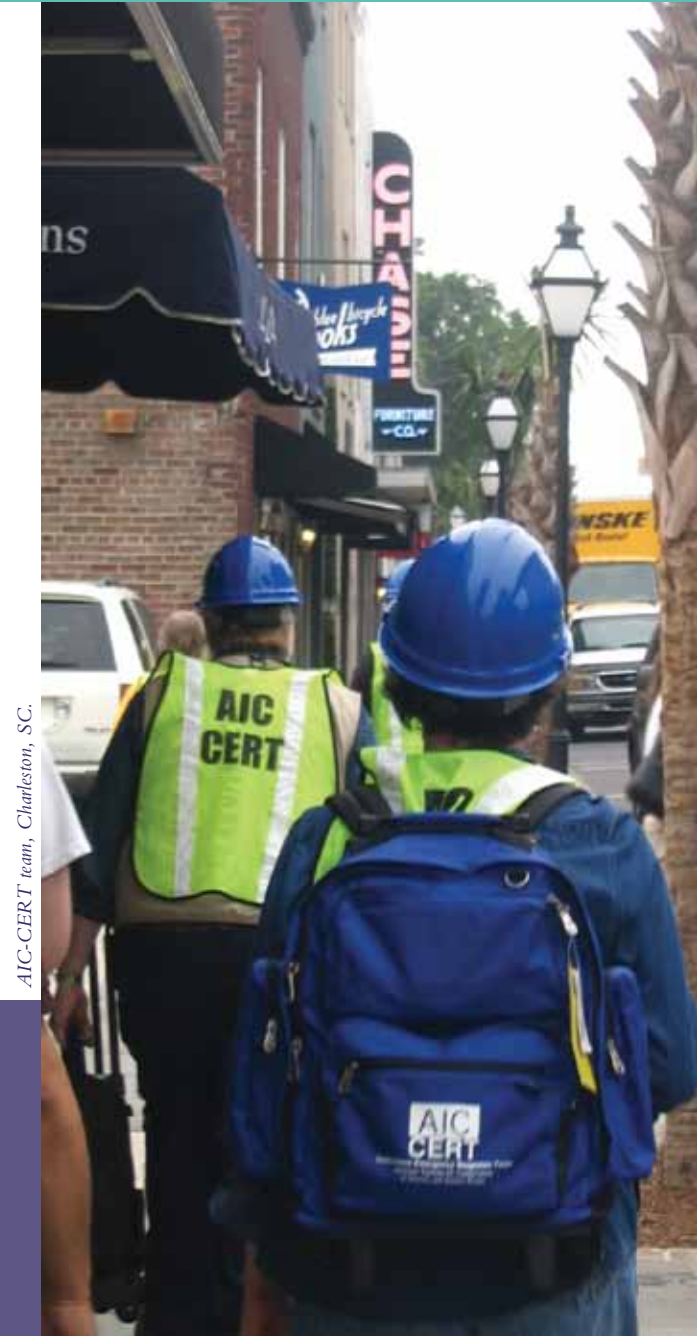
"Thank you for everything you and your staff has done to help Iowa museums during the last couple of months. Your offers of assistance in the form of AIC-CERT teams, supplies, and general advice were, and still are, greatly appreciated. Thank you for everything you have done to ease this distressing situation and help Iowa museums on the road to recovery."—*Cynthia Sweet, Executive Director, Iowa Museum Association*

"I want to thank the AIC for the wonderful team of conservators who visited Galveston earlier this month. They rendered an invaluable service to us. The on-site advice was practical, offering us suggestions we had the capacity to implement. Please extend to all three of our team members our thanks."—*Betty Massey, Executive Director, Mary Moody Northen Endowment (Moody Mansion)*.

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SUPPORT We invite you to support this important resource for America's collections. Although team members volunteer their time, FAIC must pay for their travel, lodging, meals, and supplies, as well as the overall management of the program. Visit www.conservation-us.org/donate to make a secure contribution online, or mail a check (made payable to FAIC) to: AIC-CERT, 1556 15th Street NW, Suite 320, Washington, DC 20005

FAIC is a 501(c)3 foundation organized to undertake and underwrite programs and initiatives to advance the conservation profession nationally and internationally in all its facets, and to apply the expertise of the profession in addressing the nation's artistic, cultural, and historic preservation priorities globally. Contributions are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.



AIC-CERT team, Charleston, SC.