Emergencies: Before, During and After
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Incident Command System

How they organize

Incident Commander

- Information Officer
- Safety Officer
- Liaison Officer

Operations Section
Planning Section
Logistics Section
Finance/Admin Section
Incident Command System
How response might organize

- Incident Commander
  - Safety Officer
  - Operations Section
    - Object Retrieval
  - Logistics Section
    - Documentation
    - Triage Treatment
Saving Sculpture: Disaster Preparation

Rosa Lowinger
Principal and Chief Conservator
RLA Conservation, Inc.
What constitutes a disaster?

Sudden event of catastrophic proportions:

• Fires
• Water events-floods, pipes bursting
• Storms- wind, rain, lightning
• Hurricanes/ Tornadoes
• Earthquakes
• Structural collapse of buildings
How can you prepare?

• Know what to expect in your region.
  • Earthquakes, hurricanes, or both?
  • Fires and floods should always be taken into consideration.

• Create networks of professionals to assist:
  • Conservators
  • Art Handlers
  • Insurance Personnel
  • Suppliers
Wrapping- boxes, carbon fiber
Use bespoke materials where required.
Make sure that self designs are done only by a professional.

William Dickey King, *Up There*
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Events that arrive with little or no warning:

- Earthquakes, Fires, Windstorms, Flash Floods
Earthquakes- shoring, sorting

- Damage will be mostly physical (breakage)
- Also may include fire damage and water.
- Protect what remains in place while recovering lost items.
Wind, tornado, earthquake breakage

- Identify unstable tree limbs near monuments, rope off.

- Stabilization may be needed to prevent sculptures, grave markers from toppling.

- Do not discard anything.

- Supervise crews of tree removers and contractors to make sure works are not damaged further. Be mindful of blind cracking that renders a piece unstable.

- Dismantling will involve loss of material if not careful.

- Save everything. Check the ground around the artwork.
Hurricanes and Floods

- Apart from fires that burn everything, water events are the most destructive.
- Water contains contaminants.
- The first task is to prevent additional damage by receding water.
Corrosion Formation:
Large sculptures may have weep holes that are compromised by entering salt or dirty water. Corrosion may later form from inside.
Paint losses from flying gravel and debris
Fire Damage:

- Soot is easily driven into surfaces.
- It can be oily and will become acidic.
- Removal of as much soot as possible before moving pieces is critical first step.
- Begin with vacuuming that does not touch the piece at all. Later proceed with other methods.
Paintings are also vulnerable in Emergencies

Fires

Soot can penetrate paint surfaces and supports, especially with treatments by “Recovery” companies.
Fires

Water damage and damage from chemicals used for extinguishing the fire can impact paintings.

Drips, Accretions

Blanching
Physical Emergencies
Older works of Art

Support damage from physical blows
Newer canvas tears only after stretching and unraveling.
Physical Emergencies

- Abrasion
- Dent
- Flaking
- Scratch
- Graffiti
Shipping Emergencies

Adhered packing material
Shipping Emergencies

Poor packing

Bubble wrap damage
Shipping Emergencies

Damage to crates/packing
Weather Emergencies
Floods

Artist’s studio after Sandy

Mold after exposure to water
Floods

Structural collapse

Drips
Weather Emergencies
Hurricanes

Accretions from the storm
Mold after loss of climate control

Physical damage
Response to Community-wide Emergencies
Grasping Andrew’s full fury

Study puts top winds in area of 152nd St.
“Florida almost certain to feel Irma’s fury, but where remains uncertain”
MIAMI HERALD
Assess plans to move the art off-site

Arrange ahead

How will mandatory evacuations will affect plans to move art?
Organize the Inventory

INVENTORY LIST

Paintings: 52
Photographs: 24
Works on Paper: 57
Maps/Lithographs: 41
Works on silk: 3
Textile: 1
Sculpture: 40
Decorative Objects: 354
Furniture: 113
Tableware: 623

TOTAL: 1,308 works

Save copies in a safe place

ArtCare Conservation
Document the collections
Pre-arrange access to resources

Transportation
Refrigerator trucks
Storage
Personnel
Have a way to reach key contacts

Use your Phone like a Walkie-Talkie ZELLO app

Land line phone

Detailed contact list

ArtCare Conservation
GI's rushing to aid chaotic Dade County

Relief effort near collapse

Prearrange access to the collection

Have the most Important looking ID badge possible
Equipment

De-humidifier, hose

Air purifier

Fans

Landline and telephone

ArtCare Conservation
The Generac GP17500E is durable and powerful. It provides 17500 running watts and 26250 starting watts thanks to its 3600RPM, 992cc engine.
Art Rescue Supplies

Blotters, art drying supplies

https://www.talasonline.com

White Paper Towels

Plastic, Tarps, Dartek
Helmet
Sturdy boots

Gloves

N-95 Masks
Back up the back up plan
More emergencies will follow
Be prepared to share resources
Teams
Safe space
loose baboons
Coping with gas fumes,
Advice

• Act as quickly as possible.
• Damaged works that look hopeless, may be able to be conserved.
Advice

- Be prepared to deal with mold.
  - In a water emergency
  - After a fire
  - When climate control is lost
Understanding mold growth

Dormant State
Mold spores are everywhere.

Activation State
Some of the factors that activate mold spores are:
  - Temperature variations
  - Humidity variations
  - Chemicals
  - Ultraviolet exposure

Germination
Germination occurs where there is adequate ambient moisture (high humidity after a flood).
Once mold has **Germinated**

Hyphae (the thread-like filaments that are the main form of vegetative growth) form and penetrate into the structure of a work of art. **Discoloration** from mold comes from the pigments in the hyphae.
Expect to play a long game.
James Pantoleon, Director, Engineering & Design, Crozier Fine Arts
Questions?