

Heritage Emergency National Task Force

FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution cosponsor the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a partnership of 42 national service organizations and federal agencies created to protect cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies.



Be Prepared!

As Nate approaches, it's important that individuals and cultural institutions prepare:

- Track the storm via the National Hurricane Center, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.
- Gather your staff and review your disaster plan today.
- If you have a disaster plan, make sure everyone has a printed copy to take home. An electronic version may be useless if you lose power.
- Make sure staff, volunteer, and board contact lists are up to date. Determine how you will communicate with one another before, during, and after the storm.
- Make sure your insurance and disaster recovery vendor contact information is readily available.
- Back up electronic records and store the back-ups off-site or in the cloud.
- Secure outdoor furniture, bike racks, book drops, signage, etc. – anything that can become a projectile in strong winds.
- Move collections that are in areas vulnerable to flooding (i.e., the floor, the basement) or susceptible to rain (near windows or under roofs) out of harm's way.
- Cut lengths of plastic sheeting to be able to throw them over shelves, cabinets, or equipment should the building envelope be compromised.
- Know the location and shut-off procedures for water, electricity, and gas.
- Download the FEMA mobile app for disaster resources, weather alerts, and safety tips. The app (available in English and Spanish) provides a customizable checklist of emergency supplies, maps of open shelters and recovery centers, disaster survival tips, and weather alerts from the National Weather Service. The app also enables users to receive push notifications reminding them to take important steps to prepare their homes and families for disasters. <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>
- Download the free ERS: Emergency Response and Salvage app, based on the Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel, <http://www.conservation-us.org/emergencies/ers-app>.
- For tips on what to do before, during, and after a hurricane, go to <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.
- Keep this 24/7 hotline number handy: **202.661.8068**. The National Heritage Responders, a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals administered by the Foundation of the American Institute Conservation, are available 24/7 to provide advice.

Heed advice from local officials and monitor the situation on your state's emergency management agency website:

- Louisiana's Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP): <http://gohsep.la.gov/>
- Mississippi Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.msema.org/>
- Alabama Emergency Management Agency: <https://ema.alabama.gov/>
- Florida Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/index.asp>
- Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency: <http://www.gema.ga.gov/Pages/default.aspx>