



Dallas Alliance for Response Kick-off Forum

November 14, 2003

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas

The first forum was November 14 at the Dallas Museum of Art, under the leadership of Amigos Library Services. Speakers included F. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission; museum security expert Wilbur C. Faulk; Gary Woodall and Bill Bunting, meteorologists from the National Weather Service; and representatives from FEMA and the local emergency management and insurance communities. A tour of the museum's special collections and storage areas brought home what local treasures are at risk.

Participants were encouraged to evaluate the forum. One commented, "I have been to disaster preparedness workshops, but having the first responders here was tremendous." Another attendee wrote, "What a wonderful conference! This was like receiving a college education in one day."

Answers to the question "What new fact or idea will you take from this meeting to share with your colleagues?" ranged from "Develop relationships with local first responders and risk management personnel" to "Check your insurance policy!" to "The importance of our cultural treasures."

One outcome of the Dallas forum was the development of the State of Texas Alliance for Response Team (START), which has scheduled its first regional meeting for February 6, 2004.