

Forming A Local Disaster Network in Metro Atlanta

2008



Heritage Emergency Response Alliance



Timeline

- ▶ February 8, 2007, Alliance for Response Atlanta
- ▶ March 23, 2007, First follow up meeting,
 - Mission statement and steering committee
- ▶ June 2007, Name decided upon
- ▶ August 2008, Logo designed

About Alliance for Response

- ▶ Series of national forums intended to bring together first responders and members of the cultural heritage community
- ▶ Sponsored by Heritage Preservation
- ▶ 15 forums held around the country
- ▶ 80 attended the Atlanta forum on February 8, 2007 at the High Museum of Art



Mission

- ▶ HERA is an affiliation of institutions and persons interested in preserving the cultural heritage in the Metro Atlanta area, and serving as a resource to cultural institutions around the state. The primary aim of HERA is to mitigate the loss of cultural heritage materials in the event of a disaster.



Primary Activities

- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Information sharing
- ▶ Raise awareness and encourage disaster planning
- ▶ Provide opportunities for education
- ▶ Interact with local and state Emergency Management
- ▶ Prepare and respond collectively to disasters in the region
- ▶ Identify existing resources (materials and expertise) needed after a disaster



HERA Overview

- ▶ Currently 86 “members”
- ▶ Listserv hosted by Emory University
- ▶ Hold 2 steering committee meetings and 2 educational programs per year
 - Tabletop Exercise, “Fire at the Museum”, 3/2008 at NARA SE (42 attended)
 - Tour of tornado damage at Oakland Cemetery, 8/2008 (15 attended)
 - Panel Discussion, “The First Responders Have Left Now What?” at GA Tech, 10/2008 (23 attended)
- ▶ Response, *Atlanta Daily World*, March 2008



Disaster Reponse

- ▶ Atlanta Daily World, March 2008
 - Oldest continuously published African-American newspaper in the US, since 1928
 - Building on Auburn Avenue damaged by Atlanta tornado



Disaster Reponse

- Over a period of two weeks, 21 HERA volunteers from 9 organizations helped pack out damaged historical and business records
- HERA provided volunteer labor and several institutions donated supplies and materials



Current Initiatives & Future Plans

- ▶ Website
 - Hosted by Heritage Preservation
 - <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/index.html>
- ▶ Database of members
 - Contact Info
 - Areas of expertise
 - Equipment
- ▶ Grant for shared supply stockpiles
 - Initial proposal – three containers containing supplies
 - Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta–area
- ▶ Mutual Aid Agreement



Tips for Sustaining a Network

- ▶ Lead organization with administrative commitment
 - ▶ Agreed upon mission and goals
 - ▶ Involve first responders
 - ▶ Regular meetings and communication
 - ▶ Build on models of successful networks
- Dues and funding helpful, but not essential



Get to Know First Responders

- ▶ Fire and Police Departments
- ▶ City/County Offices of Emergency Management
- ▶ State Emergency Management Agency
- ▶ Local FEMA region
- ▶ Local American Red Cross Chapter



Other Disaster Networks

- ▶ AIC-CERT
 - <http://aic-faic.org>
- ▶ IELDRN, Inland Empire Libraries Disaster Response Network
 - www.ieldrn.org
- ▶ Kansas Disaster Recovery Assistance Network (K-DRAN)
 - www.kshs.org/archives/kdran.org
- ▶ SILDRN, San Diego/Imperial County Libraries Disaster Response Network
 - <http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/sildrn/>
- ▶ CEMT (Cultural Emergency Management Team, Boston)
 - www.nedcc.org/cemt/cemt.htm



Want to Join?

- ▶ Complete a membership form
 - www.heritagepreservation.org/AfR/index.html
- ▶ Join the listserv, send a message to:
 - Hera.Atlanta@gmail.org
 - cwiseman@sos.ga.gov
- ▶ Look for postings on relevant listservs about meetings and educational programs

