



Press Release

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Texas State Library and Archives Commission
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Resources available for Texas libraries, archives, museums, historical records custodians in possible hurricane path

AUSTIN, Texas – With weather forecasters predicting the direction of Hurricane Ike to turn toward the Texas gulf coast, The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) is listing recommended programs and resources that are available for librarians, archivists, curators, records managers, and other custodians of historical records when their units are faced with pre-planning or responding in a natural disaster situation.

“These are important tools and resources for saving archival documents, collections of valuable records and library resources when planning or in the midst of a natural disaster like a hurricane,” said Chris LaPlante, State Archivist at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. “We want our Texas gulf coast institutions and governmental entities to be aware of the options they have in dealing with these possible emergencies.”

TSLAC STATE & LOCAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission offers Records Management Assistance to state agencies and local governments. TSLAC offers active and continuing records management solutions, protection of governmental records options and preparation before emergency situations arise. Resources can be found on the website at: www.tsl.state.tx.us/slrn or, call the TSLAC State & Local Records Management division at (512) 421-7200.

HERITAGE EMERGENCY NATIONAL TASK FORCE

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force, co-sponsored by Heritage Preservation and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has set up a tool for taking reports on damage to cultural resources and requests for assistance from affected organizations: <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/TFcurrent.html>. Used for the first time during the floods this summer in the Midwest, this site also has information on coping with water damage, saving your treasures and navigating FEMA and Small Business Administration disaster assistance. For more information call (202) 233-0800 or email at taskforce@heritagepreservation.org.

AIC COLLECTIONS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT) is a product of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works. It offers a rapid-response team of 60 individuals who are trained to "assess damage and initiate salvage of cultural collections after a disaster has occurred. Staffed 24-hours a day, they can be contacted at (202) 661-8068. They also can be called to seek simple advise over the phone or to

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request the deployment of a CERT team to your area. To download information <http://aic.stanford.edu/news/AIC-CERT.pdf> or visit the website at www.aic-faic.org.

AMIGOS LIBRARIES DISASTER PLANNING AND RECOVERY

The Amigos Library Services with a membership of 750 libraries and cultural heritage institutions, mostly in the southwestern United States, offers immediate guidance in the event of an emergency. They provide information, referrals to local resources, damage recovery and on-site assistance before, during and after an emergency or natural disaster. Contact Amigos Support Desk during business hours at (800) 843-8482 ext. 2863 or after hours at (469) 223-4900; or email at amigos@amigos.org. Call in the Dallas area at (972) 851-8000. Download their disaster plan template for libraries and archives at <http://www.amigos.org/files/disasterplan.pdf>.

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ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

TSLAC helps Texans find the information they seek. The people of Texas utilize TSLAC services and programs to effectively use information and materials that improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. Since 1909, TSLAC has carried out a commitment of making information work for all Texans by providing history and genealogical services, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to Texans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities. For more information, go to <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us> or email pio@tsl.state.tx.us.