

# How can your community mitigate disaster damage to your historic and cultural resources?

*Prevent damage to your important properties before a disaster strikes.*

*Here are some ideas to help you begin your efforts.*



**FEDERAL EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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## **Incorporate Historic and Cultural Resources in your Community Vulnerability and Risk Analysis**

- ◆ Form an advisory committee with members of the preservation and conservation community to advise individual institutions how to assess the vulnerability of their collections and facilities
- ◆ Identify historic areas or cultural institutions that are especially vulnerable to specific types of hazards and the types of damage they may sustain
- ◆ Prioritize the historic and cultural resources on which your community would like to focus
- ◆ Utilize existing capabilities and information, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), to locate vulnerable historic and cultural resources

## **Develop and Prioritize Mitigation and Preparedness Actions**

- ◆ Develop a community-wide long-range plan for addressing vulnerability and risk to historic properties
- ◆ Include historic preservation and cultural resource topics in meetings with local businesses

*Example: How can businesses use historic preservation to speed economic recovery after a disaster?*

- ◆ Encourage historic property owners to take black and white photographs of their properties prior to a disaster

## Regional Contact Information

### Region I

### Region II

### Region III

### Region IV

### Region V

### Region VI

### Region VII

### Region IX

### Region X

- ◆ Create a local conservation recovery and salvage team to assist cultural institutions, such as museums and libraries, in the identification and salvage of books, artifacts, and other cultural resources
- ◆ Create a damage assessment team to assess damage to historic properties following a disaster and to document severely damaged properties



Residential house destruction,  
Filmore, California  
Northridge Earthquake  
FEMA Photograph

### **Develop Communication Strategies to Educate the Public**

- ◆ Distribute existing educational materials developed by local, state and national cultural heritage organizations to members of the community
- ◆ Ask a preservation or conservation professional to speak at Project Impact meetings or functions
- ◆ Develop public services announcements and other educational media for broadcast in your community
- ◆ Publish educational materials in your local newspaper
- ◆ Work with existing classes, workshops and conferences to educate museums, libraries, and archives about mitigative practices to protect collections, books, textiles and other cultural items
- ◆ Work with schools to educate children about the damage that flood and other disasters can do to books and family photographs

*Example: Have students create waterproof containers for these objects, which they can decorate, label and take home to store in a safe place*
- ◆ Encourage a local museum to focus some exhibits or displays on the historical impact of disasters in your community