Next Steps: Preparing Your Historic Resources for Disasters

FEMA and Historic Preservation

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- Mission: to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.
The Disaster Cycle

PREPARE

RESPOND

MITIGATE

RECOVER
Hurricane Irene / Tropical Storm Lee
But how do I plan for that?

Why Historic Preservation Needs to Be Part of Disaster Planning

Almost two thirds of all states lack historic preservation strategies in their hazard-mitigation plans.
Historic Properties and Flood Insurance

• FEMA administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

• FEMA has **minimum standards** for “historic structures” in the NFIP:
  • Found in 44 CFR 59.1 Definitions
  • **Exempt** from the substantial improvement requirement provided the alteration does not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure”.
  • Once the improvement impacts the eligibility of the structure, it must come into full compliance.
Floodplain ordinances may...

- Require a variance for substantial improvements to historic structures
- Require minimum relief necessary
- Include higher standards and additional documentation requirements

...at the discretion of the community.
Tips On Preparation and Emergency Management

Historic Preservation Jobs & Internships

Links to Preservation Job Posting Sites

PreserveNet - employment and internship opportunities
Thank you!

- Alliance for Response
  - http://www.heritageemergency.org

- Heritage Emergency National Task Force
  - http://www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/taskfer.htm

- Historic Preservation in Disaster Planning Article

- Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations into Hazard Mitigation Planning
  - www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/hp/fema386-6.shtm
  - 1.800.480.2520 publication number FEMA 386-6

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