



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Heritage Responders Available to Assist with Louisiana Flooding

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Recent extreme rainfall has brought historic flooding to many parts of Southern Louisiana, especially in and around Baton Rouge. The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) offers free emergency response assistance to cultural organizations impacted by flooding. Please help ensure that staff members of collecting institutions know to contact the National Heritage Responders if their collections have been damaged.

- Call our 24-hour hotline at 202.661.8068 for free advice by phone.
- Call 202.661.8068 to arrange for a volunteer team to come to the site at no cost to complete a damage assessment and help organize salvage operations.

The National Heritage Responders have provided assistance and advice to dozens of museums, libraries, and archives since 2007. Teams were on the ground following the Midwest floods in 2008 and in the Galveston area following Hurricane Ike later that year. National Heritage Responders participated in an 18-month-long project in Haiti assisting with recovery of cultural materials damaged in the 2010 earthquake, and responded to Tropical Storm Irene and flooding in Minot, North Dakota, in 2011. National Heritage Responders also led the way in the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, working with local conservators and artists to save thousands of works damaged by storm surge and mold.

The National Heritage Responders are supported and managed by the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation. In 2007 and again in 2010, FAIC received funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support an advanced training program for conservators and other preservation professionals that resulted in a force of 107 “second responders” trained to assess damage and initiate salvage of cultural collections after a disaster. They are ready to assist.

Resources and information on disaster recovery and salvage for collecting institutions and individuals can be found on the AIC website at www.conservation-us.org/disaster. Members of the public may also consult a free fact sheet from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, titled “[After the Flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures.](#)”

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About FAIC

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that advance the conservation profession nationally and internationally while promoting understanding of our global cultural heritage. Learn more about FAIC at www.conservation-us.org/foundation