



SEATTLE HERITAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

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ABOUT US

Cultural institutions face the challenge of preparing for and responding to emergencies that affect their collections. To help address this challenge, several Seattle heritage organizations came together in 2010 to form a collaborative response network called the Seattle Heritage Emergency Response Network (SHERN).

SHERN helps archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and other heritage organizations in Seattle and King County to respond to disasters affecting cultural resources and collections. Members help each other by providing advice, support and/or actual recovery assistance. Membership in the Network constitutes a commitment by an organization to make disaster preparedness and staff training an administrative priority.

BENEFITS

- Preparedness is less expensive than recovery.
- Assistance from a wide variety of heritage professionals in the face of a disaster impacting your institution's collections.
- Access to SHERN's cache(s) of recovery supplies paid for by membership dues.
- Access to training and workshops hosted by SHERN on disaster planning, response, and recovery.
- Facilitated partnerships with local first responders and emergency managers in order to enhance cooperation and understanding in the face of a disaster.
- Behind the scenes tours of Seattle area museums and archives.
- Opportunity to network with fellow LAM professionals and Seattle area organizations.
- Increased awareness and knowledge of collections within Seattle.
- Contribute to the protection of cultural heritage across Seattle.



To see our membership visit:
<https://shern.org/membership/>





OUR OBJECTIVES

- 1** To promote awareness of potential disaster situations in Seattle and measures that members can take to prevent disasters.
- 2** To assist member organizations in the development of their disaster and collection salvage plans.
- 3** To facilitate or organize workshops and seminars to help members acquire the expertise needed to cope with disasters.
- 4** To prepare and disseminate to any interested archive, historical society, library, museum or other heritage organization lists of local preservation and disaster services, supplies and suppliers, and resource persons, etc. to supplement state-wide and national resources.
- 5** To acquire, on a cooperative basis, supplies and equipment to support the disaster preparedness and collection salvage programs of member organizations.
- 6** To set up subcommittees and task forces to deal with specific, identified problems.
- 7** To facilitate partnerships between members and local first responders and emergency managers before disasters in order to enhance cooperation and understanding.
- 8** To cooperate with other disaster response networks in Washington and encourage the development of similar networks in other Washington counties.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Heritage organization (library, archive, museum, historical society, etc) that serves the public and is located within Seattle, Washington. (West of Lake Washington, East of Puget Sound, South of Highway 523, and North of the Tukwila Incorporated Zone)
- Organization wide commitment to disaster preparedness
- Either a completed disaster plan, or Pocket Response Plan (PReP), or a commitment to work with SHERN mentor to complete a PReP and disaster plan.
- Signed Mutual Aid Agreement
- Commits the organization to share expertise, experience, and mutual assistance efforts with the goal of mitigating damages that could occur in the face of a disaster at any member location.
- Appointment of one (1) representative staff member to SHERN
- Appointed staff members should be able to attend at least four (4) out of six (6) bi-monthly meetings, hosted on the 1st Friday of every other month. Meetings are held both in-person and on zoom. In-person attendance is encouraged and includes a behind the scenes tour of the hosts site facilities with a focus on their onsite supplies and disaster plans.
- Payment of annual membership fees.