



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Wildfires: Resources for Collections

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The wildfires in southern California have imperiled wide swaths of land in densely populated areas, forcing individuals out of their homes and forcing beloved local collecting institutions to close their doors.

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) offers free emergency response assistance to cultural organizations impacted by the fires. Please help ensure that staff members of collecting institutions are aware of these resources:

- FEMA offers a fact sheet with tips on salvaging items affected by fires: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452020463438-03d4365a46c620bdd1ad1e854379c237/Fire_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508.pdf
- A video from FAIC’s “Field Guide to Emergency Response” provides demonstrations on how to handle and clean soot-damaged items: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6ApEyyQO-Q&index=7&list=PLH0WXctI2noiqtBY6nN11P-qKbf04lp7t>
- The National Heritage Responders, a team of trained conservators and collections care professionals, are available to provide advice on the phone via a free 24-hour hotline at 202.661.8068
- National Heritage Responders are also available to conduct on-site assessments and provide guidance on salvage. Call the hotline (202.661.8068) to request assistance

Collecting institutions in the area are encouraged to do all that you can to prepare for any possible damage from the wildfires.

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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