

What Will You Do for MayDay?

Cultural Institutions Prepare for Emergencies

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Libraries, museums, archives, and arts and historic preservation organizations across the nation will set aside May 1, 2009, to participate in MayDay, a national effort to prepare for disasters.

Sponsored by Heritage Preservation and other members of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, MayDay encourages organizations to take one simple step to protect the art, artifacts, records, and historic sites they hold in trust.

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force -an initiative of Heritage Preservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency-is a partnership of 40 national service organizations and government agencies.

Any organization can participate in MayDay. This year, staff at both the Kingman Museum in Battle Creek, MI, and The Field Museum in Chicago, IL, will finalize new emergency plans. The University of Utah in Salt Lake City will hold a luncheon to discuss advances in earthquake preparedness as they impact preservation of the University's collections.

Heritage Preservation is collecting examples of creative but practical measures like these to share online. This year, any institution submitting a MayDay story will be entered in a drawing for disaster supplies donated by Gaylord Brothers. Four winners will be announced on June 1, the beginning of the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season. Brief descriptions of 2009 MayDay plans or accomplishments should be submitted to taskforce@heritagepreservation.org by May 22, 2009, to be eligible for prizes.

Heritage Preservation will also be offering its award-winning *Field Guide to Emergency Response* and *Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel* at special MayDay prices from April 15 through May 31.

Visit www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/tflessons/MayDay.html for project ideas, information on prizes and the publications sale, and customized versions of the MayDay logo for publicizing this national event.

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) created the MayDay initiative in 2006 and promoted the idea to its members and allied organizations. The following year, the Heritage Emergency National Task Force and SAA expanded the concept to include all kinds of collecting institutions and historic preservation interests. www.archivists.org.

Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing innovative programs, and providing broad public access to expert advice, Heritage Preservation assists museums, libraries, archives, organizations, and individuals in caring for our endangered heritage. www.heritagepreservation.org.

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