

# Protecting the Past – RI We're all in this together!

How emergency managers, first responders and those responsible for cultural heritage & historic sites come together in The Whole Community approach to disaster management

# What is Protecting the Past – RI?



- Here is the *long* elevator speech, say it in a single breath version:
  - The mission . . . is to build and sustain alliances for communication and collaboration between the cultural heritage community and emergency management community to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from events that may adversely impact the cultural resources of Rhode Island.

# What it boils down to (KISS Keep It Simple Stupid)



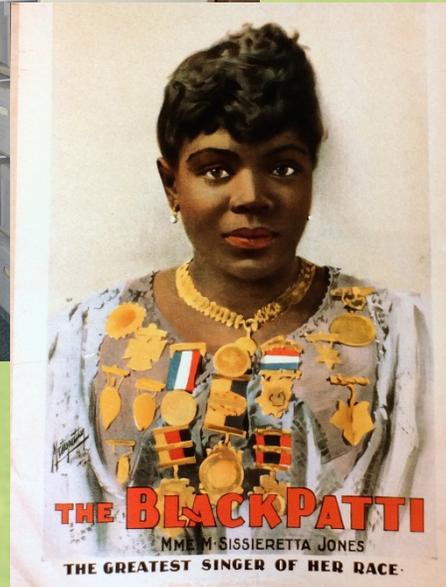
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- Insure that cultural heritage entities are participants in the Whole Community approach to disaster management at both the local and state levels
- Teach cultural heritage staff and volunteers how to protect their assets
- Teach emergency managers and first responders about the unique needs of cultural heritage entities

# What do we mean by "cultural heritage"?



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# What do we mean by "historic properties"?



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# More than collections of cool old stuff and pretty places



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- Cultural heritage plays an essential role in RI's economy
- Communities identify with the historic properties and sites within their boundaries
- Communities share and pass along their heritage through the objects and records that reflect their history



# How to support the cultural heritage community



- The cultural heritage community needs to know how to protect the collections and buildings for which they are responsible.
- And how to respond when disasters do come (for come they will . . .)



# How we can support the cultural heritage community?

- Training for staff and volunteers
  - Disaster preparedness and mitigation
  - Disaster response and recovery
  - Table Top Exercises
  - How to use disaster planning and response tools:
    - Pocket Response Plan (PReP™)
    - RI.dPlan.org



# How did emergency managers and first responders become a major partners in Protecting the Past – RI?



# Keep the conversation going!



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- Cultural heritage people – talk to your first responders and emergency managers!
- First responders and emergency managers – ask your local cultural heritage people how you can help them protect their assets!



How does this work  
at the statewide level?



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- RI Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (RI-CEMP) RI Emergency Support Function (RI-ESF)
  - **Annex #17, Cultural and Historic Preservation**

# Annex #17, Cultural and Historic Preservation

- **Primary Agency** – responsibility shared by Office of Library and Information Services, RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Department of State, State Archives
- **Support Agency:** Department of Administration, State Risk Manager
- **Public and Private Support:** RI Historical Society, ArtCare Resources, PreserveRI
- **Volunteer Support:** Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC) (AIC-Collections Emergency Response Team); Task Force #7 (Architects)
- **Federal Counterparts:** Department of Interior, Northeast Region, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance; DHS, FEMA Region I, Environmental Historic Preservation

# Contact us for more information



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