

STORM PREPAREDNESS & RECOVERY

DeWitt Stern and ARTnews Dealer Forum

Pre-Event Preparations

- Good emergency management is two-fold: it starts with advanced preparedness and ends in a structured response.
- Your plans should be based on your specific vulnerabilities, escalated based on probability, and scalable to the size and scope of the event.
- Keep a Response Kit stocked and ready at your home and office. Stock up on mops, trash bags, paper towels and other cleaning supplies in advance.
- Maintain and have readily accessible an emergency contact list. The time and energy needed to establish a network of reliable service providers who can assist with the deployment of manpower and expertise should be considered a critical investment.
- Keep accurate inventory records for your property at all locations. Prioritize what needs to be moved in the event of impending peril, and keep track of items that should be quickly assessed following an event.
- Don't wait to act. If a storm is coming your way, spring into action. Being proactive is one of your biggest assets. Understand which areas of your building are vulnerable (basements, etc.).
- Move any items at ground level to 2nd floor or above
- Plan ahead for communication—how will you communicate (telephone, text, email, Facebook, Twitter)? Regularly test these methods.

Post-Event Recovery

- If your collection has been compromised, immediately contact an art service professional (a conservator or collections manager, for example) who can advise and assist.
- Remove all the art before allowing construction/demolition crews into the facility. However, do not dispose of property, and avoid premature determinations as to what is or is not salvageable.
- It is important to begin the triage and stabilization process within 48 to 72 hours of the event in order to curtail the development of mold and rate of deterioration.
- Manage further risk to property: keep property secure and in environmental conditions (i.e., temperature and relative humidity) that are as reasonable as circumstances will permit.
- Deliver news, both good and bad, promptly, professionally, and privately.
- Stay in touch. Allow the various professionals to do their respective jobs, but check in as needed. Document all phone conversations, and confirm receipt of emails.