

SAVING GEORGIA'S HISTORIC RESOURCES FROM DISASTER

Preparedness, Resilience, and Recovery



A TOOLBOX
OF RESOURCES
AND SOLUTIONS
FOR OUR
HISTORIC
PROPERTIES

Provided by
Your Friends at
THE GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY
AFFAIRS, HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
DIVISION



This material was produced with assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund and the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, or the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

PREPAREDNESS

Hurricanes, lightning strikes, tornadoes, ice storms, flooding, fires. Disasters can strike at any time. Prepare ahead of the emergency. Here are links to websites and factsheets that can help you face a catastrophe before it happens.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) provides a list of tasks to undertake before a natural disaster strikes:

PREPARE FOR THE NEXT NATURAL DISASTER

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/how-to-prepare-for-the-next-natural-disaster>

The NTHP's *Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery for Owners of Historic Properties* factsheet includes bullet lists of tasks to complete before and after a storm strikes:

DISASTER RECOVERY GUIDANCE

<https://savingplaces.org/disaster-recovery>

The NTHP also provides a Checklist of Steps to Mitigate Natural Disasters. This website includes preparedness advice and steps to take after an event:

MITIGATE NATURAL DISASTER DAMAGE

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/10-tips-to-mitigate-natural-disaster-damage>

The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) provides advice for preparing your home and business before a natural disaster and the necessary forms to complete to gain re-entry into disaster zones:

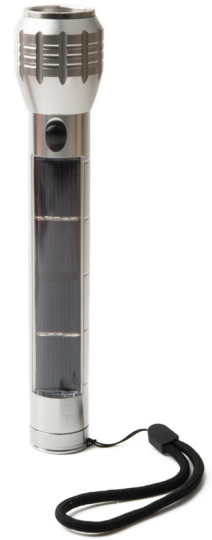
PLAN AND PREPARE

<https://gema.georgia.gov/plan-prepare>

Although created for government officials and preservation leaders, this comprehensive National Park Service (NPS) guide provides detailed information on preparedness, rebuilding and funding:

BEFORE AND AFTER DISASTERS

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/before-and-after-disasters-guidance-for-state-and-tribal-historic-preservation-leaders-on-working-with-fema-nps-and-other-federal-agencies.htm>





REBUILDING

Immediately after a disaster, your property's roof may be damaged. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assists all property owners by providing them with fiber-reinforced plastic sheeting to cover damaged roofs until permanent repairs can be made:

GUIDE TO TEMPORARY ROOFING

<https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Operations/National-Response-Framework/Temporary-Roofing/>

The NPS has published over 50 bulletins on restoration, rehabilitation and conservation of historic structures. They are all available electronically and address a variety of topics from earthquake rehabilitation to repairing wooden windows to preserving historic concrete:

NPS PRESERVATION BRIEFS

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/preservation-briefs.htm>





THE POWER OF WATER

Whether your property has been inundated with water because a river has flooded its bank or because hurricane storm surge has entered your home, here are several resources to help you mitigate water damage:

TREATMENT OF FLOOD-DAMAGE

https://cdn.savingplaces.org/2023/05/22/09/11/21/952/NTHP%20Preservation%20Books_Treatment%20of%20Flood%20Damaged%20Older%20&%20Historic%20Bldgs.pdf

FLOOD ADAPTION FOR REHABILITATION

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/upload/flood-adaptation-guidelines-2021.pdf>

This manual for Repairing Your Flooded Home is not specific to historic structures, but is a step-by-step guide to assist you in repairing your property:

REPAIRING YOUR FLOODED HOME

https://nchh.org/resource-library/fema_repairing-your-flooded-home.pdf





DEVASTATING FIRE AND SMOKE

Fire is fast, hot and deadly. These are the key points to remember when dealing with all fires. Be prepared and learn what to do after any kind of fire with these resources.

PONCE CITY MARKET



House Fires

House fires can happen to anyone, but according to the NTHP, the biggest risk of fires in historic buildings is when they are undergoing restoration. Overheated tools and chemical fumes raise the likelihood of fire. The NTHP has issued ten tips for preventing and responding to fires at historic homes here:

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO HISTORIC HOME FIRES

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/10-tips-for-preventing-and-responding-to-fire-at-a-historic-house.the>

The U.S. Fire Administration also provides a multitude of ways to prepare and prevent household fires:

PREPARE AND PREVENT HOUSEHOLD FIRES

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/>

Wildfires

The Georgia Forestry Commission reports that Georgia averages over 3,500 wildfires annually. Each fire has the potential of spreading to neighboring buildings. The GFC's website contains ways to prevent wildfires, which are most often caused by humans, and links to other sites such as fire weather forecasts and maps of wildfires across the country:

FIRE WEATHER, FORECASTS AND MAPS

<https://gatrees.org/fire-prevention-suppression/wildfire-prevention/>

This U.S. Department of the Interior blog also includes tips on how to prevent wildfires:

10 TIPS TO PREVENT WILDFIRES

<https://www.doi.gov/blog/10-tips-prevent-wildfires>

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides advice on how to prepare your home for wildfire:

PREPARING HOMES FOR WILDFIRE

<https://www.nfpa.org/en/education-and-research/wildfire/preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

If a wildfire is imminent and you must evacuate your home, the Western Fire Chiefs Association offers six steps to take that may prevent or lessen damage from a wildfire:

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR EVACUATION

<https://wfca.com/wildfire-articles/prepare-home-for-fire-evacuation/>

After the Fire

If the worst happens and your property is damaged by a household fire or wildfire, there are many resources available to help you recover.

The U.S. Fire Administration's 2019 booklet, "After the Fire", includes steps to follow in the days and weeks after a fire of any kind:

DAYS AND WEEKS AFTER THE FIRE

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_46.pdf

The North Carolina Department of Insurance also created a detailed, 12-page booklet outlining actions to take after a fire including a list of items to take with you if your home is declared unsafe for occupancy and tips on how to clean items that were corrupted by smoke and water:

STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE

<https://www.ncdoi.gov/what-do-after-fire/open>

A 2024 article from *This Old House* explains how to restore your home after a fire:

HOW TO REPAIR DAMAGE AFTER A HOUSE FIRE

<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/home-safety/22555730/how-to-repair-damage-after-a-house-fire>



IS IT TIME FOR HELP?

Who can help and is there funding available for historic property owners?

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is the best source of information on obtaining assistance after a disaster:

ASSISTANCE AFTER A DISASTER

<https://www.fema.gov/assistance>

There is specific guidance for FEMA grant applications involving historic properties:

PRESERVATION GUIDANCE

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/environmental-historic>

The additional guide below will help you gather and provide the necessary information that federal agencies need to complete the required environmental and historic preservation (EHP) review after a presidentially-declared disaster:

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/UFR_Applicant_Guide_Final.pdf

Disaster Recovery Grants are sometimes appropriated by Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund and have been made available to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). These grant funds are used to work on various recovery

projects that may include and allow repairing damaged historic buildings. In Georgia this type of grant funding was most recently used for areas affected by Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Hurricane Michael in 2018:

DISASTER RECOVERY GRANTS

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/disaster-recovery.htm>

These Small Business Administration grant funds are used for work on various recovery projects that may include repairing damaged historic buildings:

PHYSICAL DAMAGE LOANS

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/physical-damage-loans>



RESTORING YOUR MEMORIES AND SPACE

What About the Items Inside my Home?

Disasters can cause damage not only to your historic buildings, but to the contents as well. Here are several links that can assist you with saving irreplaceable items such as books, textiles and photographs:

SAVING WET BOOKS

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/preservation-matters-disasters-saving-wet-books-after-a-flood.htm>

SAVING WET PHOTOGRAPHS

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/preservation-matters-disasters-saving-wet-photographs.htm>

SAVING WET TEXTILES

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/preservation-matters-disasters-saving-wet-textiles-after-a-flood.htm>

SAVE YOUR FAMILY TREASURES

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/recover/save-family-treasures>

CARING FOR RECORDS

https://www.georgiaarchives.org/caring_for_records



NEED HELP WITH MOLD?

The NTHP offers some helpful tips on mold removal and prevention:

MOLD TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/mold-today-gone-tomorrow-save-money-in-historic-homes>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has information on its website about mold clean up after a flood:

RECOVERY RELATED TO MOLD

<https://www.epa.gov/mold/emergency-preparedness-and-recovery-related-mold>



NAVIGATING YOUR INSURANCE CLAIM

How can I prepare for potential insurance claim?

Both the Georgia Consumer Service Division and GEMA have online information to help you plan your insurance coverage and properly document your claim:

INSURANCE PLANNING BEFORE AND AFTER A DISASTER

<https://ociapp.oci.ga.gov/Resources/Documents/ConsumerServices/Insurance%20Before%20And%20After%20A%20Disaster.pdf>

<https://gema.georgia.gov/plan-prepare/ready-georgia/make-plan/insurance-planning>

This Travelers Insurance website provides a video on documenting your valuables:

HOME INVENTORY CHECKLIST

<https://www.travelers.com/resources/weather/emergency-preparedness/home-inventory-checklist#:~:text=Creating%20a%20digital%20home%20inventory,of%20relevant%20rooms%20or%20items>

Be Alert for Fraud

Scam artists are always looking for opportunities to exploit circumstances, and people are most vulnerable after a disaster. Be cautious of unsolicited offers, and protect your personal information:

DISASTER FRAUD

<https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/security/disaster-fraud>



FRAUD ALERT

Support for your
journey home.

From Your Friends at



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
of **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**