

## Property Owner Emergency Response Advice

1. Implement your individual, family, and/or business recovery plan
  - Don't panic: stay calm and safe. You may need to take care of yourself and your family and property for some time after the disaster
  - Get out your emergency preparedness kit
  - Get out your "List of Things to Go" if necessary to facilitate the gathering of information in case you need to evacuate
2. Secure and protect your historic resource from further damage ASAP
  - Check gas and water lines
  - Stabilize, shore, and weatherproof if possible and as necessary
  - Reach out to others who may need assistance
3. Don't throw anything away
  - Salvage character-defining features and repairable materials
  - Check for loose features and materials and either remove, label, and store for safekeeping or re-secure in place
  - Inventory damage and loss
4. Be fiscally and resource savvy
  - Contact your insurance company and register with FEMA
  - Ask and confirm that your property is recognized as being a historic resource
  - Ask whether any financial assistance provided requires specific historic review requirements (at the local, state, and/or federal level)
    - Be aware that loan and other financial assistance conditions may require additional historic review prior to disbursement of funds
    - For example, some SBA loans may require SHPO review of the proposed work
  - Beware of low initial bids
    - Low bids often fail to include costs of repairing additional damage discovered after the building is opened up and work begins
    - Ask for proof of a current state contractor's license, a certification of worker's compensation insurance, and experience in working with historic properties
5. Participate in post-disaster community recovery planning
  - Be aware that a "red tag" posting does not automatically mean that the property has been condemned or will require demolition
  - Build relationships with community emergency managers and other recovery officials to have an active voice in the recovery process
6. Repair and rebuild safer and stronger
  - Incorporate mitigation measures in design and construction
  - Use qualified professionals to inspect damage and make repairs

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The California State Office of Historic Preservation (CASHPO) offers this advice on the recognition and protection of historic and cultural resources in light of emergency situations.

- This response advice does not preclude the need for emergency preparedness.
- Many response comments are based on timely property maintenance and emergency preparedness measures that can easily be done in advance of any emergency and that may possibly limit or prevent damage to historic properties in emergencies.
  - **Be Prepared!** Properly maintain your property and keep adequate insurance policies current. List your property if it is not already listed.

### Basics

#### Identify Historic Properties

- *Share information*

#### Protect Historic Properties

- *Stabilize, secure, shore, and weatherproof as necessary and ASAP*
- *Do no additional damage*

#### Maintain Historic Properties

- *Repair, restore, and/or return to use*

### Helpful Tools

- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards
- The California Historical Building Code

### Helpful Publications

- 20 Tools That Protect Historic Resources After An Earthquake
- Temporary Shoring & Stabilization of Earthquake Damaged Historic Buildings
- National Park Service Preservation Briefs 17, 31, 35, and 43

### Additional Information

- Active Disasters (activated by an event); [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/activedisasters](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/activedisasters)
- Disasters and Historic Resources; [www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/disasters](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/disasters)

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