

**DEFINING**  
***“DISASTER”***

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**ASEE ELD**

**James Van Fleet**

# **What are we talking about?**

- **Your Disaster Response Team is hand-picked, trained and ready**
- **Your Plan is up-to-date**
- **Your building is surveyed**
- **Your closet is stocked with supplies**
- **YOUR MISSION IS CLEAR . . .**

# Three Levels of Disaster

- **INCIDENT**
- **EMERGENCY**
- **DISASTER**

# INCIDENTS

- **Small, ~1--25 items affected**
- **Single trained staff member can respond, without outside assistance or resources**
- **Sometimes more instructive than destructive**

# Vandals Strike



# Leaky air handling unit



# **EMERGENCIES**

- **May require emergency responders!**
- **~25--100 items affected**
- **Usually require more than one staff member, working over several days**
- **May require outside resources for long-term recovery**

# Leaking roof drain





**air drying**



# shelf shifting



# Sandbags for “flood control”



# **DISASTERS**

- **WILL REQUIRE immediate contact with emergency responders**
- **Affect more than ~100 items from collections, affect building, services**
- **Require the attention of most members of the Disaster Response and Recovery Team, over several days / weeks**
- **Require outside resources for recovery**

**water filtration line**



# chlorine stains (and fumes)



# A librarian's nightmare





Munters dries us out



**We prefer to call it . . .**  
**“Preservation Planning”**

**Which we need to define better**

- for our own staff and administrators**
- when we are dealing with anyone outside the library, or library community**
- and especially when we are dealing with agencies outside of the university.**

# Defining Our Role

- **Insurance**
- **Campus-wide Emergency?**
- **Regional Disaster?**
- **Continued provision of services**
- **Preservation**

# **Insurance**

- **Make sure the Insurance company has a copy of your Disaster / Preservation Plan**
- **Make sure campus administrators know your building is the most valuable one on campus!**

# **Campus-wide Emergency**

- Make sure you have staff members in the loop**
- Establish communication with emergency responders (put on your neon green hats!)**
- Work with the decision makers**

# **Regional Disaster**

- **Establish communication, through university channels, with emergency responders, FEMA, Red Cross**
- **Contact your emergency supply / service vendors**
- **Cross your fingers and wait your turn**

# **Continued provision of services**

- A server off-site may “preserve” your library services and collections better than any disaster response**
- Be a part of the campus-wide plan for communicating with the university community**

# Defining Preservation

- **Its NOT about people, its all about things (call them infrastructure) – buildings and collections**
- **It requires planning, support, and trained and dedicated staff**
- **It can happen before, during and after a disaster, if we are allowed to do our job**