Ways to Safeguard your Records Against Disasters

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RMAA inForum Annual Convention:
*Information Continuity: Safeguarding Business & Community Identity*
6th September 2010 – Gold Coast Convention Centre Broadbeach Queensland
What is the Blue Shield?

• The emblem is the ‘cultural’ equivalent of the Red Cross

• The distinctive emblem is defined in the UNESCO’s 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict
What is the Blue Shield?

✧ The symbol specified in the 1954 Hague Convention

– To identify cultural property
  * Movable
  * Immovable

– In the event of
  * Armed conflict
  * Natural disasters
What is the Blue Shield?

General Eisenhower in 1945 inspecting artworks looted by the Germans and stored in the Merkers salt mine during WW2.
During the war, the United States created the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives team of cultural heritage experts to protect and salvage cultural sites and objects in the war zone.
What is the Blue Shield?
What is the Blue Shield?
CCAAA - Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations
ICA - International Council on Archives
ICOMOS - International Council on Monuments and Sites
ICOM - International Council of Museums
IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
Blue Shield Organisation
Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS)

• ICBS initiated the development of ANCBS in September 2006.

• ANCBS will serve as the central contact for requests of help to preserve endangered cultural heritage

• Provide administrative coordination of relief operations among other organizations

• Promote the Blue Shield organization, both in the heritage sector and among other relief organizations

• Maintain an international list of available specialists in the area of disaster prevention and containment in each member country, along with a central information and expertise center and Web site.
National Blue Shield Committee’s

- 18 National Blue Shield Committees
- 20 National Committees in development

- BSA was established in September 2005
- BSA is a federation of four industry peak organisations aka ‘Pillar Bodies’:
  - Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA)
  - Australia ICOMOS
  - ICOM Australia
  - Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)
Who is the Blue Shield Australia Committee?

BSA Committee 12th February 2010
What is BSA’s Vision?

To ensure the preservation of cultural heritage in Australia’s area of responsibility from all kinds of threat by influencing disaster preparedness and emergency management.
Black Saturday Bushfires
February 7, 2009 Victoria
Black Saturday Bushfires
February 7, 2009 Victoria

Bonnocord one of several historic houses burnt out at Happy Valley Road in West Bendigo
Maurie Murphy studies the gutted interior of Bendigo landmark Bon Accord, or Rae's mansion as it's known locally. The building's future is unclear until the damage has been fully assessed.
Black Saturday Bushfires
February 7, 2009 Victoria

Rae's mansion was heritage listed dating from the Goldrush days.
Black Saturday Bushfires
February 7, 2009 Victoria

Mary Kenealy, Marysville Historical Society (Australia), after the February 2009 bushfires
Fierce Hail Storms
Perth 22nd March 2010

Flash flooding damages
University of Western Australia Library
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Earthquake
20\textsuperscript{th} April 2010

The Golden Eagle Hotel lies damaged after the earthquake

Blue Shield Australia
BSA and International Disasters

Collapse of the Cologne Archives, March 2009

Blue Shield Australia
Earthquake L'Aquila, Italy
April 2009
Earthquake L'Aquila, Italy
April 2009

Firemen with a marble Madonna removed from the top of a church in Paganica near L'Aquila, Italy
Haiti Earthquake
12th January 2010

Large portions of the National Palace collapsed
Chile Earthquake
27th February 2010

Earthquake damage at the Museo de Bellas Artes de Talca, Chile.
Part of the ceiling of Roman Emperor Nero's Domus Aurea collapsed
New Zealand: 7.0 earthquake reduces buildings to rubble in Christchurch

5th September 2010
BSA MayDay Campaign Logo’s

MayDay
SAVING OUR LIBRARIES
MAY 1 • 2010
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE

MayDay
SAVING OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
MAY 1 • 2010
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE

MayDay
SAVING OUR MUSEUMS
MAY 1 • 2010
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE

MayDay
SAVING OUR ARCHIVES
MAY 1 • 2010
PREPAREDNESS PROTECTS OUR HERITAGE

Blue Shield Australia
The Meaning of MayDay

• We have ‘fused’ the distress signal, and the **first day of May** – in order to create a memorable calendar date for events that improve disaster preparedness in archives, galleries, libraries and museums.
Annual MayDay Campaign Flier

Blue Shield Australia

MayDay 2010

This May, take at least one of the following steps to prepare your organisation for emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

- Register for Disaster Proofing Heritage Collections: the Blue Shield Australia & DISACT Symposium 2010 on matters relating to emergency preparedness for cultural heritage. This will be held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, on Thursday 6 May 2010. For further details, contact info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au
- Dust off your disaster plan and make sure it’s current, or make a timeline for developing one, using Be Prepared: Guidelines for writing a disaster preparedness plan: http://wwwcollectionsaustralia.net/schlober info.htm2
- Identity and prioritise your important collection items and heritage sites
- Identify the three biggest risks to your collection or heritage site
- Get to know your local firefighters, police and SES – invite them to tour your organisation to give you pointers on safety and preparedness
- Arrange or participate in an emergency response training day on firefighting, crowd control, flood water management etc.
- Attend a course on business continuity planning, a conference on resilience, or a workshop on emergency preparedness
- Host a morning tea to raise funds for Blue Shield Australia
- Consider the protection offered by your storage facilities – and plan to build safer repositories
- Familiarise yourself with Blue Shield Australia’s webpages – particularly the one providing ‘Useful Links’ regarding emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – and share the information with your colleagues
- Contact Blue Shield Australia (info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au) in early April to request a media kit for promoting your MayDay activity and to register your participation in MayDay 2010

Promote MayDay to your colleagues by posting this flier on your notice boards and internet, and facilitate discussion with colleagues about what you will do to mark MayDay on 1 May 2010, and throughout the month of May.
MayDay Campaign Asks You To:

• Dust off your counter-disaster plan and make sure it’s up to date (or make a timeline for developing one).
• Update your staff contact information.
• Identify and prioritise your important collection items and heritage sites.
• Identify the three biggest risks to your collection or heritage site.
• Provide staff with easily accessible disaster preparedness, response and recovery information and training
Prepare for Disasters

Apply a Risk Management Approach
Successful preparedness includes:

• Staff training
• Disaster plan development
• Installation of emergency supplies
• Establishment of emergency planning committees
• Clearly defining roles of key stakeholders in your disaster strategies
• Assimilation of collection emergency plane into overall business continuity plans
Establishment of Local Networks

- Find a ‘partner’ organisation to work with in case of a disaster

- Establish or be part of a network of local partners who will help each other to prevent, prepare, respond and recover from disasters
DISACT Network

Signing the Letter of Intent (aka MOU) 6th May 2010
Blue Shield Australia’s New Website

www.blueshieldaustralia.org.au
BSA Contact Details

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Acknowledgement