



COSTEP MA

Coordinated Statewide
Emergency Preparedness

YOUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTNER FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

HMGP: Mitigation for Memory

**Training sessions preliminary report
Sept 24, 2014**

The basics

- COSTEP MA was awarded funding through MEMA & FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in 2011.
- The objective is “to conduct a three-year public awareness project on mitigation damage to cultural collections and essential government records in the state.”
- Original project manager - Lori Foley
- Current project manager - Andrew Grilz

Project Goals

- 1) Conduct community meetings to introduce COSTEP MA in at least 14 different communities throughout Massachusetts, at least three in each MEMA region.
- 2) At least 6 meetings with Regional Planning Authorities/Committees, at least one in each MEMA region.
- 3) Develop a framework that provides a blueprint of approaches to mitigation for cultural institutions that can be used regionally.

Goal 4

- 4) Conduct four full-day workshops will train cultural custodians how to conduct a risk assessment of their facility, identify and implement mitigation activities.
- One session to be held in each MEMA region
 - Open invitation
 - Survey the attendees to determine success/satisfaction

House of the Seven Gables visitors center 4/16/14



Logistics

Sessions were held in:

- Salem (MEMA Region 1)
 - Harwich (MEMA Region 2)
 - Northampton (MEMA Region 3)
 - Worcester (MEMA Region 4)
-
- Promoted through MBLC, NEMA, COSTEP's Facebook page, direct emails, Eventbrite, host site promotion, word of mouth, etc...
 - All sessions conducted by Emergency Response Consultant Arthur Dutil.

Arthur Dutil at Seven Gables



Session Basics

Have a disaster plan, review it, share it

Evaluate risks :

High/low probability

High/low impact

Evaluate resources, capacity to respond

Communication is key!

Session 1: Salem

- Held at the House of the Seven Gables, April 16, 2014
- 43 attendees
- 3 different buildings evaluated on site (Turner House, Hawthorne Birthplace, Welcome Center)
- Discussion included emergency access to historic buildings, sheltering in place (weather emergency), historic property with historic gardens.

Albro House, Harwich 5/5/14



Session 2: Harwich

- Held at Harwich Community Center, May 5
- 32 Attendees
- Evaluated property – Albro House (1909 private residence used by Harwich Historical Commission & other municipal offices. Currently used by town youth counselor.)
- Older electrical service discussed, access again

Northampton- Parsons House

6/12/14



Session 3: Northampton

- Held at Northampton Museum & Education Center (home of the Northampton Historical Society), June 12
- 19 Attendees
- Property evaluated Parsons House (circa 1730)- also site of meeting.
- Discussions included uneven floors and low ceilings in period houses

Worcester (WPI) Gordon Library

6/24/14



Session 4: Worcester

- Held at WPI Gordon Library, June 24
- 30 attendees (out of 27 registered!)
- Property evaluated – Gordon Library Archives
- Discussions include fire safety

Results

- 124 Individual participants

- Highly favorable reviews from surveys:

“All institutions need to make this a priority. The speaker clearly indicated what has to be done. We should all do it and work with each other to share best practices. “

“I think this should program should be required for **all** institutions. “

“Learned many new potential disasters that I hadn't even thought about it. More planning to do! “

“There are many hazards out there just waiting to happen!! “

“Its easy to push emergency preparedness to the bottom of the To-Do List, but the COSTEP session reminded me that it's important to tackle at least a little bit at a time. “

Lessons learned

Sessions and information provided were eagerly received by both cultural resource custodians and emergency management professionals.

Greater effort needed to bring EMPs to sessions (very unbalanced representation).

More handouts and take-home information would be a welcome addition to future trainings.

Both a '101' and advanced session would be well received by attendees for future trainings.

Questions?

Thank you!