

Introduction

Shelter from the Stormy Blast provides a link between the general advice offered by disaster planning manuals and the specific actions that must be taken when disaster strikes. Few disasters can be managed without at least some outside assistance, yet locating such assistance often presents an unanticipated challenge added to already difficult conditions. *Shelter from the Stormy Blast* attempts to make this phase of disaster recovery easier.

Shelter from the Stormy Blast contains six sections:

Section 1: Emergency Networks

This section provides a brief overview of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and information about state and local emergency response networks. These agencies may have a role to play in the response to a local disaster, and every institution's disaster management plan should contain instructions for contacting emergency authorities.

Section 2: Evaluating Disaster Recovery Services & Products

Readers are encouraged to identify, evaluate, and make advance arrangements with vendors of disaster-related products and services well before any disaster strikes, but selecting the most appropriate vendors from among the many possible choices can be difficult. Section 2 of *Shelter from the Stormy Blast* provides a list of questions for archivists and librarians to ask vendors in order to evaluate their potential to “do the job right.”

Section 3: National/Regional Disaster Recovery Services & Supplies

Section 3 gives definitions for recovery technologies and industry terminology. (Please note that the list of companies that specialize in disaster-related products and services from the first edition of *Shelter from the Stormy Blast* has been removed from the updated edition. For a list, please see the SOLINET website for [publications on disaster planning](#).)

Section 4: Locating Local Disaster Recovery Services & Products

Specialized disaster-management companies represent one option for responding to disaster. Some institutions, however, may prefer to turn to local resources for help. This approach is likely to involve use of telephone yellow pages and Internet search engines. To address this need, Section 4 of *Shelter from the Stormy Blast* provides a list of the most helpful yellow page entries and search terms to use in the search for disaster-related products and services. Many of these entries are annotated with further information about locating disaster assistance. Note that specific company names are not included in this section: to list all those possible for every locality would result in an enormously bulky guide, with the contents largely irrelevant to any given institution's needs. The emphasis of this section is the process of locating and choosing local services and products.

Section 5: Disaster Planning Literature

Producing a plan should be the first and most important step any institution takes to prepare for and to successfully cope with disaster. Many excellent guides are available to assist in the disaster planning process, and Section 5 of *Shelter from the Stormy Blast* provides a selection of these in an annotated bibliography.

Section 6: List of Abbreviations

Consult this section for a list of abbreviations that will be helpful to know when conducting disaster planning.