Managing Mental Health in Cultural Heritage Emergency Response:

A Safety Approach for Operational Resilience

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Mental Health

https://www.samhsa.gov/
Critical Incident Stress

CRITICAL INCIDENT
• Any significant event which has emotional power to overwhelm a person's or a group's ability to cope with a situation

SECONDARY TRAUMA
• Any situation that causes unusually strong emotional reactions and feelings, which have the potential to interfere with your ability to function in your prescribed professional role
The Shame Web
1. Ignore Re-entry Protocol
2. Inappropriate or Ineffective PPE
3. Increased Rate of Accidents
4. High-staff Turnover or Divisiveness

Image Courtesy of UNESCO, Netherlands
Case Studies

The museum on my skin
DURATION: 03:12

NEWS

April 29, 2019 at 1:47pm

EXPERTS WARN FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON NOT TO RUSH NOTRE DAME RESTORATION

More than 1,150 artists, curators, academics, and leading conservators have signed an open letter rejecting French President Emmanuel Macron’s plan to rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral in five years. The French daily Le Figaro reports that experts are urging Macron not to rush reconstruction following the massive fire that devastated the beloved cultural heritage site on April 15. The cause of the blaze that scarred “Our Lady” of Paris remains unknown but may have been the result of an electrical short-circuit.

Screenshot: Artforum.com

Screenshot: The Museum of Lost Objects, BBC podcast
Promoting Positive Workplace Environment

- Effective Management Structure and Leadership
- Clear Purpose, Goals and Training
- Functionally Defined Roles
- Administrative Controls
- Team Support
- Plan for Stress Management

- “A Guide to Managing Stress in Crisis Response Professions”
  - SAMHSA
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I looked at the artifacts sitting in water, and saw, my heart truly sank. This was a disaster.

-Alice M. Greenwald, S.313 Memorial Museum Director

Following Hurricane Sandy, Our Branch of Hope, The Metro Blog

Resources


Nevertheless, what will happen to St. Thomas? In the year to come consciences all, well beyond this calendar year. The issue of this work will exceed the policy mandates of this generation, and it is with their help that we will be judged.

-Letter to President Donald Macarri of Cultural Heritage Professionals

April 29, 2015

Shake Resilency Theory

TEDTalk 2012 (2012). Listening to shake. Retrieved from YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m1yXt6Jv3w. Source: TED-Talks


Image: Image of museum staff working on artifacts.