



Article: Analysis and Comparison of Recent Large-Scale Emergencies Involving the Recovery of Photographs (Abstract)

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Abstract: Analysis and Comparison of Recent Large-Scale Emergencies Involving the Recovery of Photographs

Andrew Robb

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Over the past two decades, large numbers of photographs damaged by floods and tsunamis have been recovered successfully by freezing photographs as an initial, short-term measure, and then using a variety of drying approaches, such as air-drying, ethanol baths, and freeze-drying to complete the recovery of the photographs. Recently reported incidents (Dresden 2002, Peterborough 2004, Hawaii 2004, District of Columbia 2007, and Ofunato 2011) provide useful case studies for the response and recovery of photographs affected by disasters.

The circumstances of each incident (quantity of damaged material, degree of damage, time available for initial recovery, and resources available) shaped the response and recovery methods used in each situation.

An assessment tool is proposed that quantifies the scale of the incident and the needs of the incident. Scale is determined by two factors: quantity and damage. Needs are determined by two factors: time until stabilization begins and resources available. Each of these factors is assigned a number from zero to three and added together resulting in a *Scale* score and a *Needs* score; each totaling from one to six. The *Scale* and *Needs* scores are multiplied together to create an *Incident* score from one to thirty-six.

This incident model can be used to assess and compare incidents. The model can also be used as an assessment tool that during initial response and recovery efforts to better allocate limited resources and understand the incident as it unfolds.

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