

Tips for Volunteers

CERF+ has created this list of tips for volunteers assisting artists with emergency recovery. Please be patient, work safe, and enjoy the experience of helping another person.

- Consider working with an established volunteer organization. Volunteers who have trained in advance are like gold, but there are many opportunities for untrained volunteers to work under the supervision of those who have been trained in emergency response.
- Wear protective clothing and bring your own protective gear. Research what gear, supplies, and tools you are likely to need and be sure you have what you need to work safely, without being a burden on the people you are trying to help. Bring extra gear if you can to share with other volunteers.
- Be self-contained. Bring your own water and food, and if possible, bring extra to share if it is needed.
- If you have special skills, come with what you need to perform them, and tell the people you are helping that you are prepared to do that if desired. However, be ready to do whatever needs to be done.
- Be patient and remember that the person you are assisting is under great stress, and may not know exactly what to do, or what to tell you to do.
- Remember that your first responsibility as a volunteer is to Do No Harm.
- In addition to helping prepare for disaster, the *Studio Protector* is a good guide for artists who are assisting others after emergencies.
- Be respectful of others' religious beliefs. If you are volunteering as part of a ministry or religious calling, refrain from proselytizing or engaging in activities that may add to the stress of those you are trying to help.
- Do not accept gifts or compensation for your assistance. Doing so may put those you are assisting in a difficult legal position. The work is its own reward.

Visit www.StudioProtector.org for information on emergency recovery and readiness.

Visit www.CraftEmergency.org for information on CERF+ and its programs.