

Practical Lessons from the Flood of 2010

Kevin Callaghan, Director of Records Management



Opryland Hotel May 2010





Nashville Flood of 2010

- Record setting rain (13.57 inches) caused the Cumberland River to crest over 51 feet.
- Twenty-six fatalities in TN and KY.
- Over \$2 billion in private property and \$120 million in public infrastructure damage.
- Historic artifacts at the Grand Ole Opry and other sites were destroyed.
- Over 100,000 cubic feet of records were at the state records center.

State Records Center May 2010



State Records Center

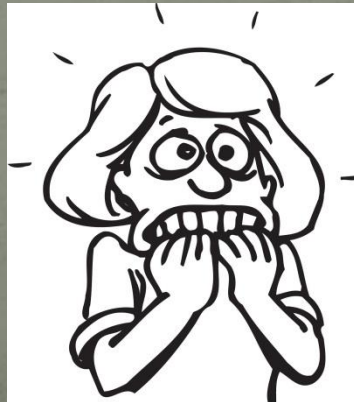
- Located in a known flood zone
- Between 2004 & 2007 plans were developed to build new center on higher ground.
- Problem was not resolved due to budget reasons.
- If you see a threat, take steps to resolve or mitigate potential damage.

Retention Standards

- When records schedules are out of date, destruction cycles fall behind and volume builds up.
- Update retention schedules to meet current standards.
- Push for regular destruction and follow-up on items that are delayed for legal reasons.

What to do in a disaster

- We are still dealing with records that illegible due to water damage
- Prevention is the first step.
- Clear plan on removing damaged records from your location and moving them to recovery location.
- Check the work of the disaster recovery company immediately upon receipt.



Historic Records

- Remember that records are kept by the agencies or the records center for years before going to the State Archives.
- Failure to keep these documents secure may result in a five to fifty year gap in the historic record.



Four Lessons

- Recognize the threat AND take action to fix it.
- Attention to Retention Standards benefits the organization on multiple levels.
- Response Plan that is tested and reviewed is essential.
- Protect the Historic Record.

Thank you.

Kevin Callaghan
Division of Records Management
Kevin.Callaghan@tn.gov