



Professional First Aid for Cultural Heritage: a Presentation of the Cologne Model Roll-off Container

Cultural Heritage Protection in Germany

20th September 2022

Online session



Historical Archive
of Cologne



Fire Brigade Cologne



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften



Presentation of the speakers



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Conception and Requirements

- Experiences from the collapse of the Cologne Historical Archive in 2009 and the consultation of the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro after the fire in 2018.
- In the event of an emergency, required materials along with safe and secure workplaces that comply with occupational health and safety regulations must be immediately available for first aid.
- It is essential to be able to treat a large variety of cultural materials regardless of location, weather or type of disaster (e.g. flood, fire, collapse etc.).
- The system must be durable, low-maintenance and fully compatible with the emergency infrastructure in Germany.

General data

- Mobile work stations (up to 8) and storage for material and equipment
- Dimensions: 6,9 x 2,5 x 2,55m
- Weight: 8,5 Tonne
- Connections for water and electricity
- Can be used regardless of weather due to infrared heating and lights
- Transported with the swap-body vehicle from the Fire Brigade (or by other emergency service providers)





The Workstations: bird's eye view



Rinsing

Dry cleaning

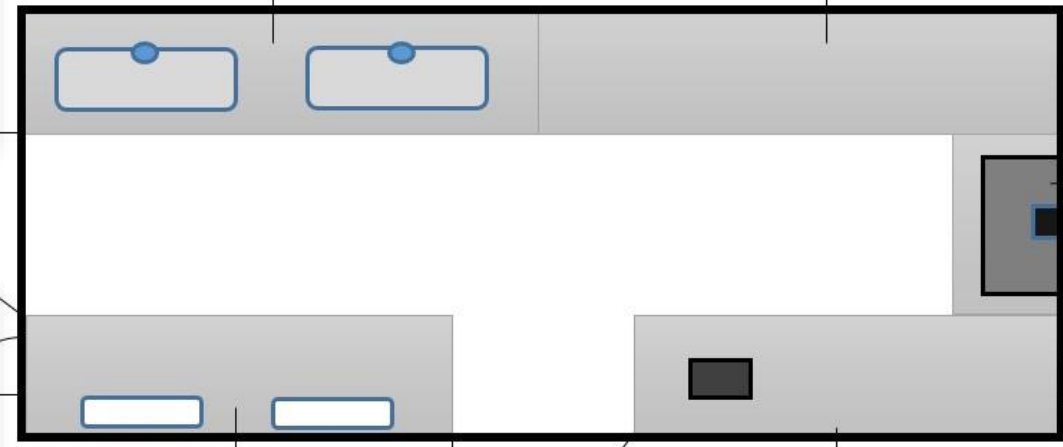


Photographs



Preparation
for freezing

Documentation



Storage

Required materials and equipment are stored in 5 roll-container trolleys and euroboxes



Operation in Stolberg

Operation after the flood in Stolberg City Archive, North Rhine-Westphalia,
19th – 25th July 2021



Operation in Stolberg

Operation after the flood in Stolberg City Archive,
North Rhine-Westphalia, 19th – 25th July 2021



Operation in Stolberg

The salvaged cultural materials:

- Rolled oversized plans
- Photographic materials
- Files and folders
- Books
- Diverse objects from the Stolberg Town Museum



Operation in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler

Collaborative Operation with the Weimar Fire Brigade for the Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler Town Museum, Rhineland-Palatinate, 30th July – 6th August 2021



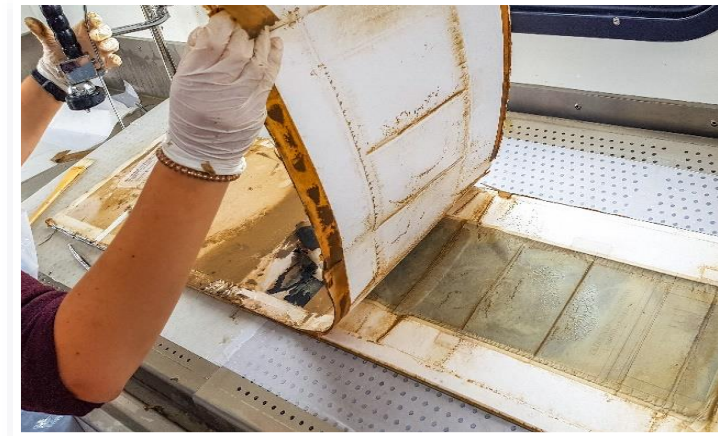
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Initial Findings

- Very quick deployment and start to on-site operations possible
- As the system was adapted from the fire brigade, it is fully compatible with the infrastructure in Germany
- The container forms the central point of an operation to which other containers and/ or tents can be combined
- Or can be deployed together with the sustainable cultural heritage rescue vehicle from Weimar, as with the Ahrweiler Town Museum operation
- As with most roll-off containers, it has very low maintenance costs

Future Perspectives I

- Planned procedures have proved successful, but nevertheless operational plans are required:
 - > Operational plans within the municipality with the local emergency association
and
 - > Operational plans for further afield (co-operation with other municipalities
and nationally)
- Pre-standing connections to the local emergency services with a binding and legal framework for operations are necessary
- Networking between all cultural preservation institutions within a municipality and ideally together with the local fire brigade
- Also network with other emergency associations outside of the municipality

Future Perspectives II

- Technical adaptation and optimisation of the roll-off container:
 - > For the practical operation, the current work stations will be adapted to enable more flexible working: additional taps and stretch film dispensers will be installed. This modular system will allow for the workers to respond more easily to the situation, and carry out more rinsing or packing of objects for freezing, as is required.
 - > Acquiring additional materials for the container to be best equipped to act autonomously on site in the event of a disaster.
- The container will be presented at the Denkmal Trade Fair (Europe's leading trade fair for preservation, restoration and old building renovation) in Leipzig, 24th - 26th November 2022.

Future Perspectives III

- As part of the Recovery Aid 2021 provided by the federal government, the four states affected by the flooding (North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony and Bavaria) will receive up to 30 million euros.
- 10 additional emergency containers with equipment and material for cultural heritage will be commissioned and located around Germany
 - > However, it is important that the federal state laws be updated to include the specific protection of and responsibility for cultural heritage in times of crisis.

Discussion & Questions

Thank you very much for the attention!



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**Kulturgutschutz
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