

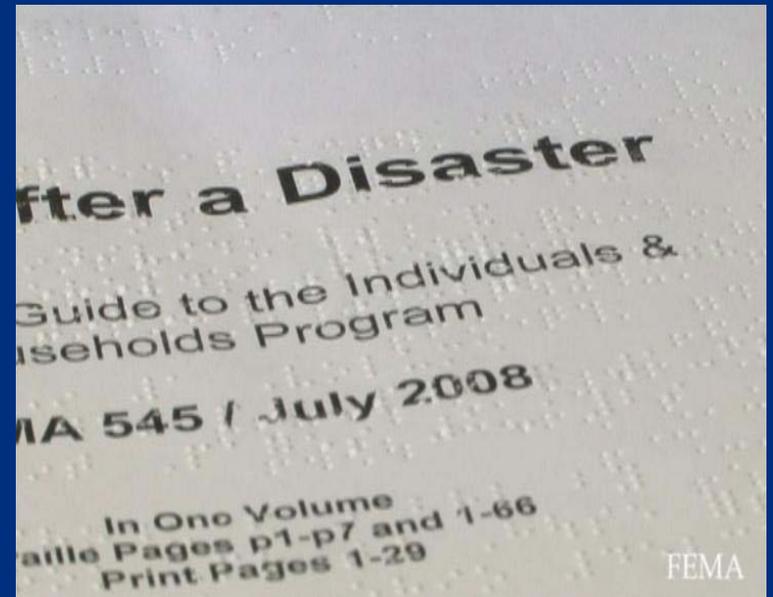
Planning for the Whole Community

Integrating and Coordinating Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Children and Adults with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs Before, During and After a Disaster.

October 2012



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Benilda Caixeta

July 31, 1954 – August 29, 2005

Unable to evacuate before or during hurricane Katrina, Benilda told me the water was rushing into her home just before her phone went dead. Her body and her wheelchair were found floating inside her home several days later.



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“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capacity to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”



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FEMA's Role in a Disaster

- Always in support of the State
- Always by request
- Domestic



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National Preparedness Goal:

A secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

- National preparedness is the shared responsibility of our whole community. Every member contributes, including individuals, communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and Federal, state, Tribal, Territorial and local governments.



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Whole Community:

Participation of the whole community requires:

- equal access to preparedness activities and programs without discrimination
- meeting the access and functional needs of all individuals
- consistent and active engagement and involvement in all aspects of planning.



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The WHOLE Whole Community:

- For inclusive planning to be successful, individuals who are often underrepresented or excluded must be actively involved. This includes: individuals who are from diverse cultures, races and nations of origin; individuals who don't read, have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking, individuals who have physical, sensory, behavioral and mental health, intellectual, developmental and cognitive disabilities, including individuals who live in the community and individuals who are institutionalized, older adults with and without disabilities, children with and without disabilities and their parents, individuals who are economically or transportation disadvantaged, women who are pregnant, individuals who have chronic medical conditions, those with pharmacological dependency, and the social, advocacy and service organizations that serve individuals and communities such as those listed above.



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“It is time children, people with disabilities or any other segment of our communities who have traditionally been underserved, to be more fully and consistently integrated into preparedness and planning efforts at every level of government.”

“My experience tells me if we wait and plan for people with disabilities after we write the basic plan, we fail.”

Craig Fugate,
FEMA Administrator



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“We don’t plan for easy in FEMA ... we plan for real.”

Administrator Fugate
March 2010

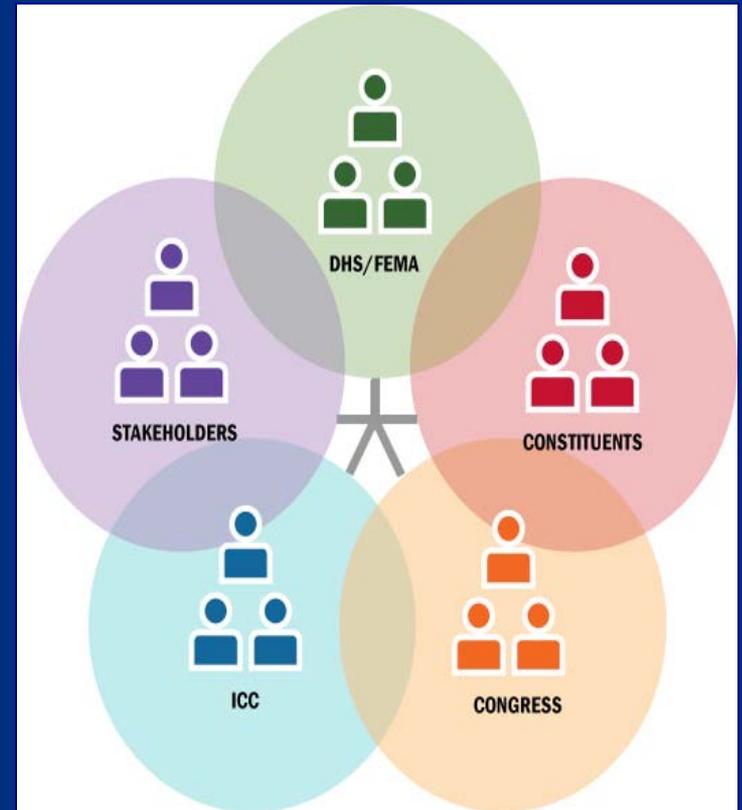


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Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Mission Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and regulations, provide guidance, tools, methods and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management inclusive of individuals with access and functional needs.



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REGIONAL DISABILITY INTEGRATION SPECIALISTS



Responsible for ensuring that the access and functional needs and requirements of individuals with disabilities are being properly included and addressed in all aspects of emergency preparedness and disaster response, recovery, and mitigation.



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Disability Facts

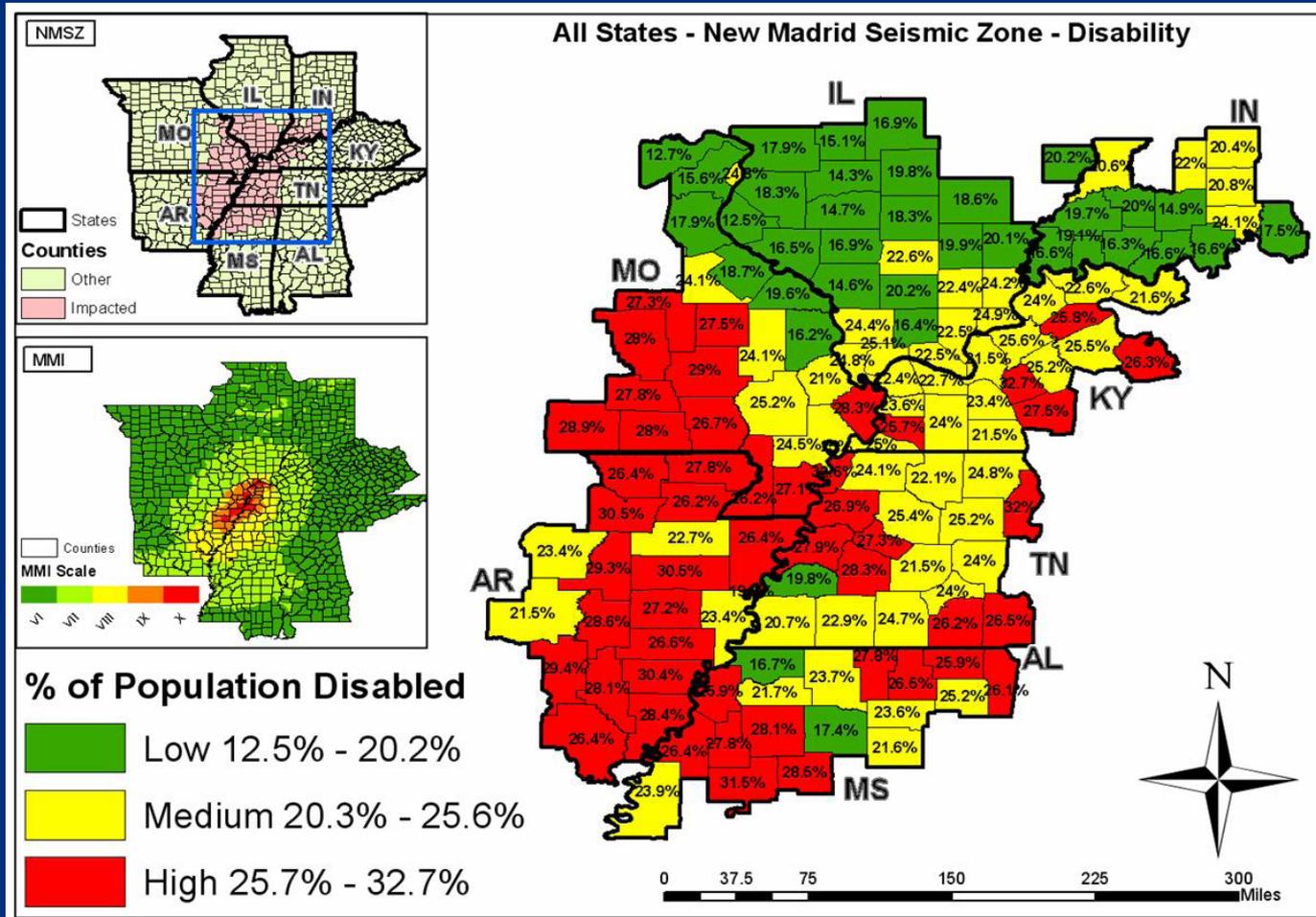
- 59 million Americans (20% of the population) report having a disability
 - 8.4% of all children birth-15 years old
 - 70.5% of all seniors over the age of 80
- This includes 2 million people with disabilities who are institutionalized



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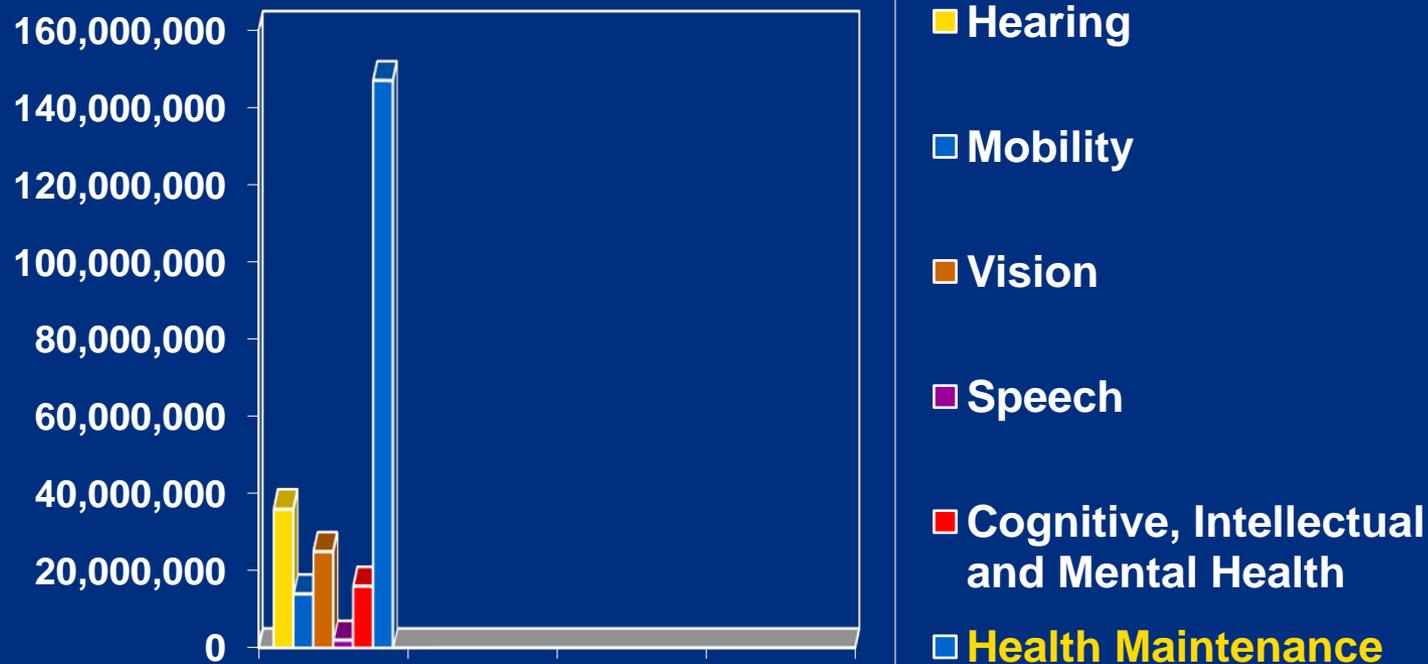
US Census and World
Report on Disability

NMSZ Percentage of People With Disabilities



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Types of Disabilities and Health Maintenance Needs



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Health Maintenance Facts

- Health Maintenance
 - 48.3% of Americans report taking prescription medications
 - 34% take prescription medication to treat a long term condition or illness
 - 5.7% of children under 12 take daily medication for Asthma
 - 10.8% of adults age 20-59 take anti-depressants
- Allergic Reactions
 - Approximately 545 deaths per year
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivities
- HIV/AIDS



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Other Individuals who may have Access and Functional Needs

- Older Adults
 - Much more likely to have a disability
- Women in late stages of pregnancy
- People needing bariatric equipment
- People with Limited English Proficiency, low literacy or additional communication needs
- People with very low incomes
- People without access to transportation
- People experiencing homelessness



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Access and Functional Needs vs. Acute Medical Needs

- Most people with disabilities do not have acute medical care needs, and maintain their health, safety and independence in their home and community on a daily basis.
- Planning to meet the access and functional needs of disaster survivors with and without disabilities in general population settings can significantly reduce the use of very limited acute care resources and optimize outcomes for people to return to their pre-disaster level of independence.



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Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination in Emergency Programs on the Basis of Disability

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Stafford Act of 1988
- Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988
- Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (EHA) of 1975
- Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010



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The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws apply in:

- Preparation
- Notification
- Evacuation and transportation
- Sheltering
- First aid and medical services
- Temporary lodging and housing
- Transition back to the community
- Clean up
- Other emergency- and disaster-related programs, services, and activities



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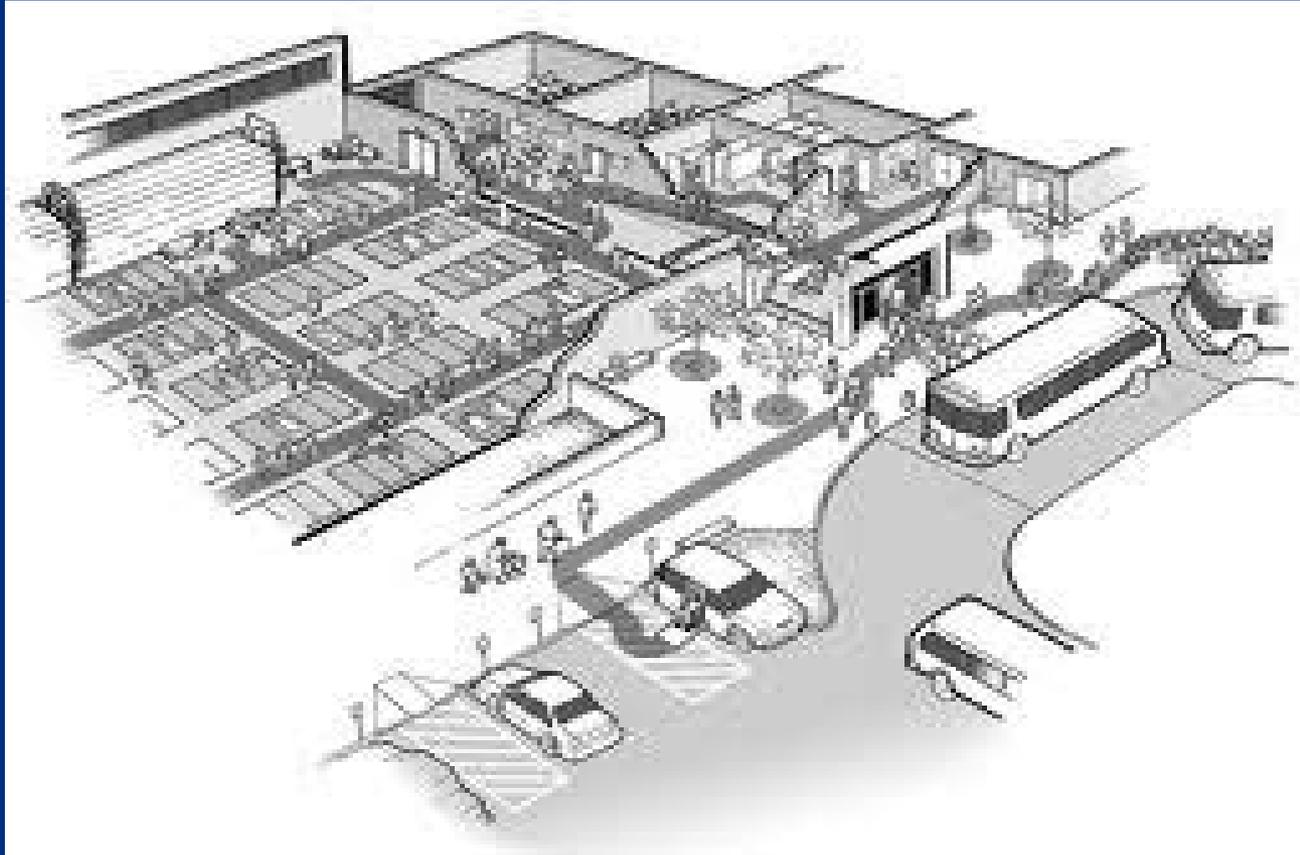
The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) directed FEMA to:

- Establish a Disability Coordinator and develop accommodation guidelines;
- Add provisions to the non-discrimination list for relief and assistance activities;
- Coordinate and support evacuation and recovery efforts;
- Provide transportation assistance;
- Provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs assistance to individuals with service animals;
- Provide case management assistance
- Receive input



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Physical Access



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Physical Access

- Access to the buildings and areas where services are provided
 - Parking
 - Entry and egress
 - Mobility within the building
 - Access to facilities and areas where services are provided
 - Emergency procedures



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Programmatic Access



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Programmatic Access

- Reasonable modifications to rules and policies
 - Allowing service animals in shelters
 - Modifying rules regarding kitchen hours for individuals that need to eat more often because of a disability
 - Rearranging sleeping areas in a shelter



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Effective Communications Access



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Access to Effective Communication

Under Title II of the ADA, all state and local governments are required to take steps to ensure that their communications with people with disabilities are as effective as communications with others.

The effective communication requirement covers public television programs, videos produced by a public entity, and telephone communications. These communications must be accessible to people with disabilities.



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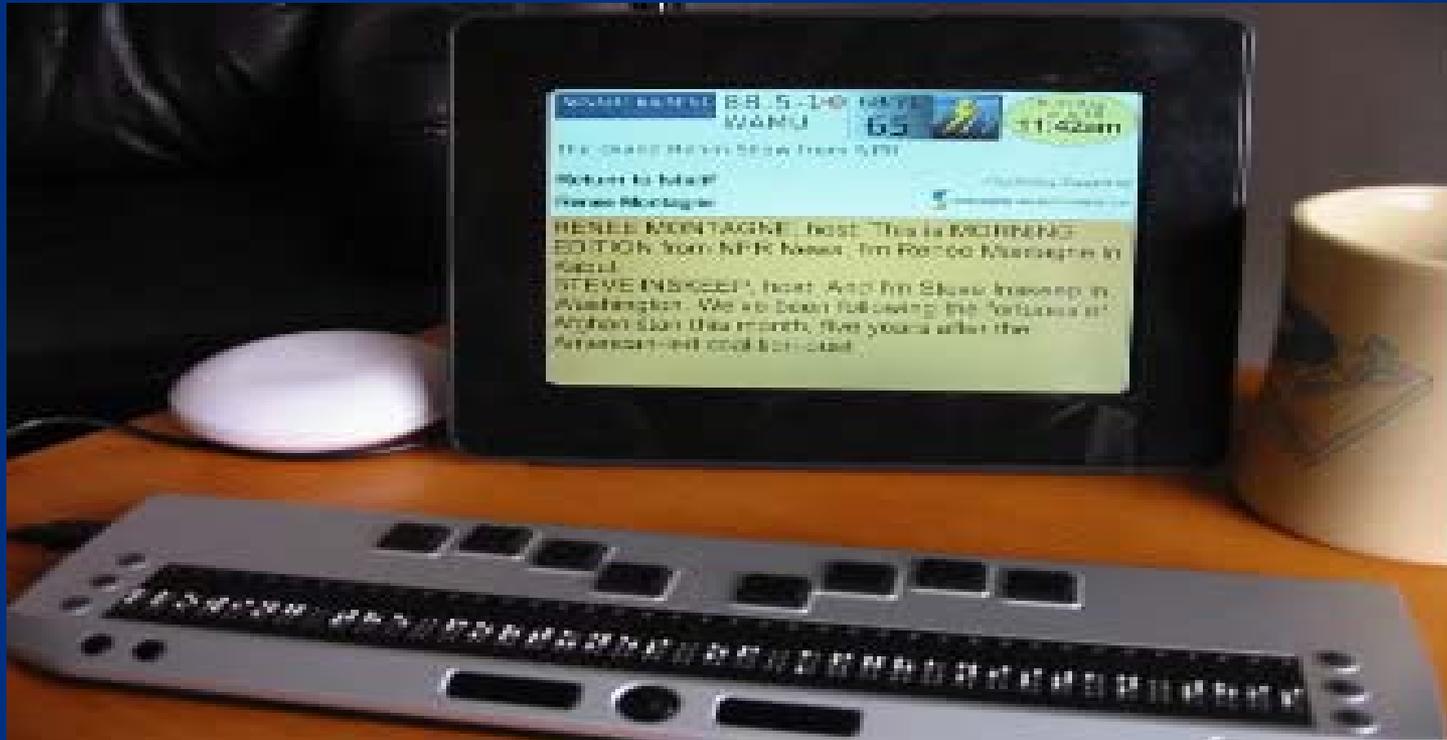
Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) Accessibility

CMAS includes a specific requirement that the alert signal be a distinctive vibration for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind to recognize it as a cellular alert message, and a distinctive audible alert so that persons who are blind or have low vision also recognize it as an alert message.



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Information has to be accessible to be actionable



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Effective Communications Access



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If you need:



ASL Interpreter

Large
Print

Materials In Large Print



Braille

Materials in Braille



Assistive Listening Device



TTY



Someone to explain

JUST ASK!



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Recent FEMA Activities

- PKEMRA required FEMA to appoint a Disability Coordinator
- February, 2010 – FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate established the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination
- September, 2010- “Getting Real”- Inclusive Emergency Management National Capacity Building Training Conference
- 2010 – Regional Disability Integration Specialists (RDIS)
- 2011 – HQ Disability Integration Specialists
- September, 2011- “Getting Real II”- Promising Practices in Inclusive Emergency Management
- 2011-2012- over 35 disaster deployments
- 2012- Disability Integration Advisor Reservist Cadre



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The words we use:

We hear it all the time – ‘special needs’ and ‘vulnerable.’ Both terms do damage. When people with disabilities are thought of as ‘special,’ they are often thought of as marginal individuals who have needs, not rights. The word ‘vulnerable’ has a similarly unfortunate effect. Vulnerable people must have things done for them; they’re recipients, not participants.

-CT Protection & Advocacy Agency



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The difference between the right word
and the almost right word is the
difference between lightning and a
lightning bug.

Mark Twain



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Katrina was a wake up call!

- People with all types of disabilities will show up at shelters.
- It is government's responsibility to shelter them.
- Local government is the first level of response for disasters.



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Key concepts about sheltering of people with access and functional needs

- People with disabilities can be accommodated in shelters if given the proper support.
- Meeting the needs of people with disabilities requires coordination of many during an event.
- Support needs to come from government and Non Government Organizations.



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General Population Sheltering Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Guidance

- Planning
- Finding subject matter experts
- Selecting potential shelter sites
- Accessible toilets and bathing facilities
- Personal assistance service needs
- Medical Care
- Durable Medical Equipment and Consumable Medical Supplies
- Legal obligations
- Service and assistance animals



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FEMA PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES CONTRACTS

Augment the ability of States, Tribes, and Territories to help individuals with access and functional needs maintain their health, safety, and independence in congregate facilities after a Presidential declaration.



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■ **Types of services provided:**

The PAS contract provides support to help individuals with access and functional needs maintain their independence in congregate facilities:

- Basic personal care, such as grooming, eating, bathing, toileting, dressing and undressing, walking, transferring, and maintaining health and safety.
- Higher level of care, including changing dressings on wounds (such as pressure point sores), administering medications / injections (such as insulin), catheterization, and respiratory care (to include mechanical ventilation) when allowed by law.



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Requirements:

- A declaration of emergency or major disaster
- A request is received from the State, Tribal, and/or Territorial government when they have determined that shortfalls exist.



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Proactive community actions that may reduce the need for Personal Assistance Services

- Physical, programmatic and effective communication access in shelters
 - Assist individuals who use PAS/AT/ DME/service animals etc, their PAS providers and their circle of support to plan for emergencies
 - Encourage active involvement of people with disabilities, personal assistance service providers, disability services and advocacy organizations and assistive technology loaner programs in community preparedness efforts, as partners, subject matter experts and local resources.
 - Teach first responders not to separate people from their PAS/AT/ DME/service animal during evacuation.
 - Plan for accessible transportation to keep people with their PAS/AT/ DME/service animal during evacuation.



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All Hazards Preparedness



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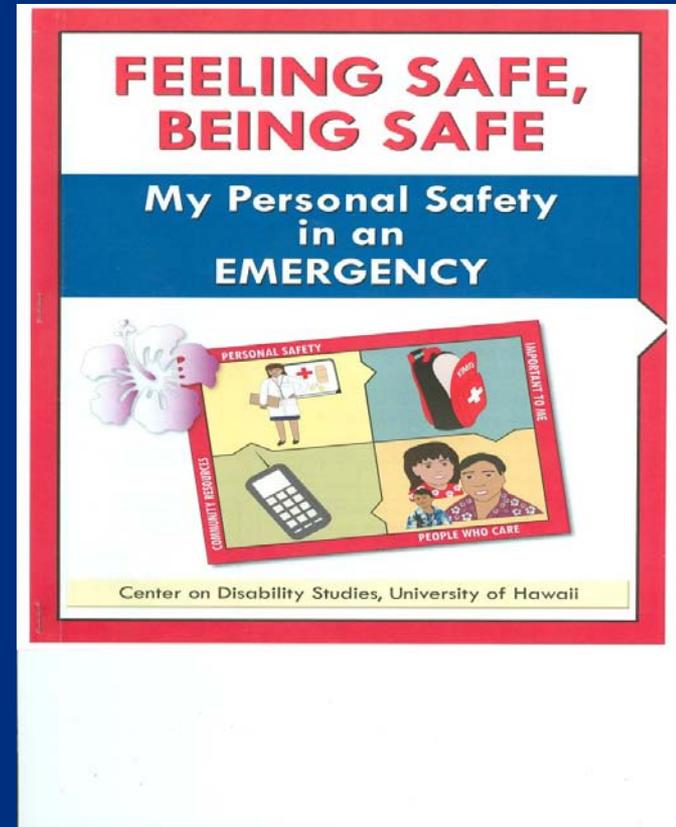
“No doubt you’re asking yourself, what are hatches? And how the heck does one go about battening them down?”



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Personal Responsibility From Liabilities to Assets.

Personal responsibility before, during and after a disaster applies to people with disabilities just as it applies to people without disabilities. Although ability varies from person to person, educational and outreach efforts, information and tools must be made available, achievable and accessible to everyone.



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Assets Not Liabilities



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Promising Practices in Preparedness

www.fema.gov/about/odc



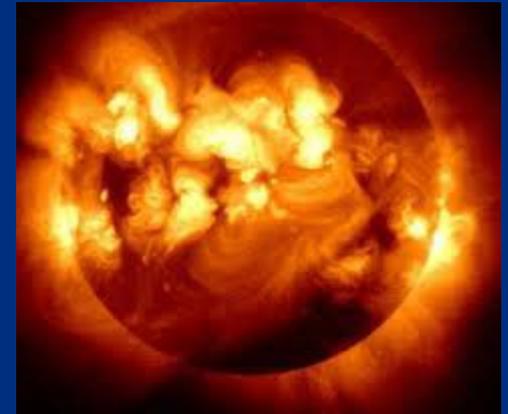
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Partnership



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Space Weather...



... potential impact on technology used by people with disabilities



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EXERCISES

- Exercises are a great opportunity for the whole community to practice for disasters
- People with a variety of disabilities must be included in all exercises.
- Actors should not be used
- People with disabilities should not declare themselves “dead” during exercises, rather they should pose real life challenges to the exercise.



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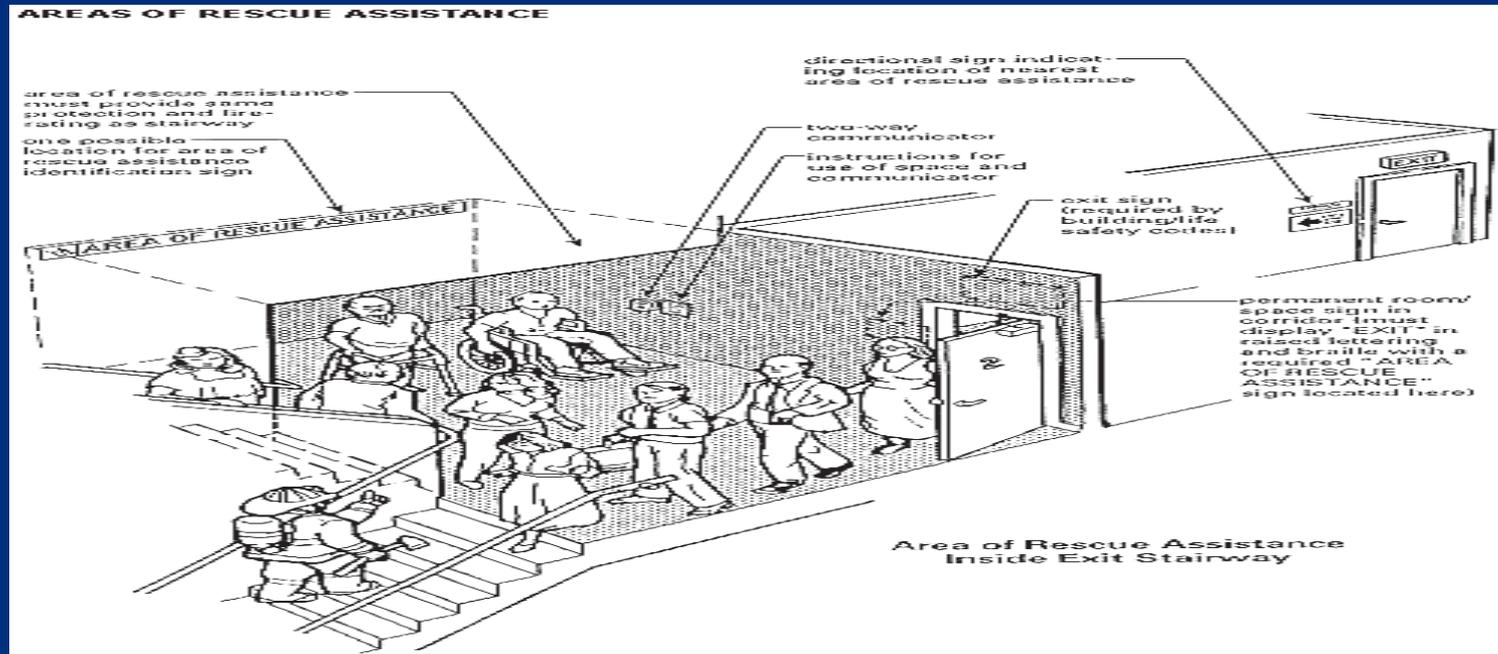
EVACUATION

Practice and planning do make a difference. During the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, a man with a mobility disability was working on the 69th floor. With no plan or devices in place, it took over six hours to evacuate him. In the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, the same man had prepared himself to leave the building using assistance from others and an evacuation chair he had acquired and had under his desk. It only took 1 hour and 30 minutes to get him out of the building this second time.



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The ADA accessibility guideline for area of refuge communication states: A method of two way communication with both visible and audible signals must be provided in each area of rescue assistance. The system must permit non-verbal use so someone with a hearing or speech disability could notify the safety and rescue personnel of their presence, and very importantly be reassured that someone has acknowledged their call.



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Recovery

- All community members must have equal opportunity to participate in community recovery efforts in a meaningful way. Care must be taken to assure that actions, both intentional and unintentional, do not exclude groups of people based on race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), religion, sex or disability. Care must be taken to identify and eradicate social and institutional barriers that hinder or preclude individuals with disabilities and others in the community historically subjected to unequal treatment from full and equal enjoyment of the programs, goods, services, activities, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations provided.



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NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US



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Employment with FEMA

- FEMA CORPS
- Reservist Program
 - Disability Integration Lead Advisor (DILA)
 - Disability Integration Advisor (DIA)
- Mandatory Schedule A training



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INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

When communities integrate the access and functional needs of children and adults with and without disabilities in all phases of community-wide emergency management, they strengthen their ability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.



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Helpful Links:

- Office of Disability Integration and Coordination www.fema.gov/about/odic
- Getting Real- Promising Practices in Inclusive Emergency Management
▪ gettingreal-ii.webcaston.tv/home/homepage.php
- READY www.ready.gov
- Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General
▪ Population Shelters http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odic/fnss_guidance.pdf
- Personal Assistance Services Contract FAQ
▪ http://www.pascenter.org/publications/publication_home.php?id=1324&focus=
- Planning for the Whole Community <http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/Broadcasts/LRBroadcast0611.aspx>
- First Responder Guide <http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/SPAWARAFN/index.html>
- CAL EMA Office for Access and Functional Needs
▪ <http://www.calema.ca.gov/ChiefofStaff/Pages/Access-and-Functional-Needs.aspx>
- Disaster Resources for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and
▪ Functional Needs <http://www.jik.com/disaster.html>
- PAS Center Emergency Preparedness <http://www.pascenter.org/emergency/index.php#promise>



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Helpful Links:

- DOJ www.ada.gov
- Project Civic Access <http://www.ada.gov/civicac.htm>
- PCA Tool Kit:
 - Chapter 3- General Effective Communication Requirements Under Title II of the ADA
 - <http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap3toolkit.htm>
- Chapter 7- Emergency Management Under Title II of the ADA
 - <http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm#pcatoolkitch7>
- ADA Checklist for Emergency Shelters <http://www.ada.gov/shleterck.htm>
- An ADA Guide for Local Governments: Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities
 - <http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprep.htm>
- DOJ Statement of Interest, CALIF, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.
 - http://www.ada.gov/briefs/calif_interest_br.pdf



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