



*Including People with Disabilities
in Earthquake Planning Makes Sense*





Disability Awareness

Disability awareness helps to remove barriers so that responsible, self-sufficient people with disabilities can assume risks, make choices and contribute as they wish... this is a vision in which we all win.





Definition of Disability

- Emotional Disability/Mental Illness
- Physical Disability
- Learning Disability
- Intellectual Disability
- Sensory Disability
- Developmental Disabilities





People with Disabilities in the US

- Intellectual Disability: 7M
2-3% of population
- Cerebral Palsy: 1.1M
- ADHD: 6.4M Children
- Visual Disability: 6.6M
- Hearing Loss: 28M
- Wheelchair Users: 3.2M
- Down Syndrome: 400,000
- Autism: 1 in 59 children
(1.3M)



Access & Functional Needs

- Can be defined as someone needing supports to maintain independence
 - Daily activities
 - Communication
 - Transportation/evacuation
 - Supervision
 - Medical care
- Temporary or permanent
- Does not require that the individual have any kind of diagnosis or specific evaluation.



Access & Functional Needs

- Individuals who are from diverse cultures, races, and nations of origin
- Individuals who can't read, have limited English proficiency, or are non-English speaking
- Older adults with and without disabilities
- Children with and without disabilities
- Individuals who have economical or transportation needs



Access & Functional Needs

- Women who are pregnant
- Individuals who have chronic medical conditions
- Those with pharmacological dependencies
- Social, advocacy, and service organizations
- Individuals with disabilities



Whole Community

**People with
Disabilities**

**People with
Access &
Functional
Needs**



Whole Community Planning

- Looks beyond traditional government-centric approach to emergency planning.
- Aims to dispel old thinking that government can solve challenges on its own.
- Engages and leverages community partner resources.
- Expands government reach.



Advisory Committee/Group

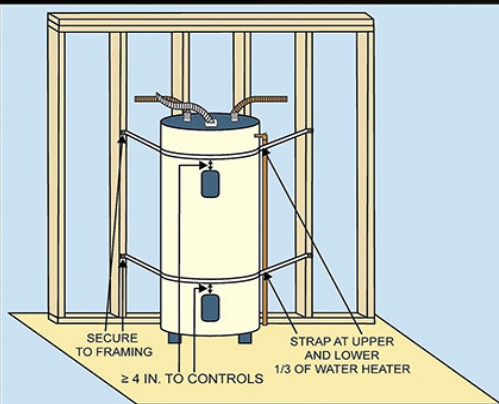
- Disability advocacy organizations, service providers, individuals with disabilities, state level (Access and Functional Needs Committee)
- Same as (1) but local level
- Providing workshops at the local level, evident only when dedicated to principles of inclusive emergency management.
- Personal planning within workshops or other venues

Committee on Disabilities should exist in every jurisdiction





Mitigation



Seismic Anchorage of Water Heaters

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Considerations when Planning

- What if power, gas, and phone lines are not working?
- What can you do independently?
 - With Durable Medical Equipment or Adaptive Equipment?
 - With Assistive Technology?
- With what do you need assistance?
- Will regular sources of assistance be available?
- What if transportation is unavailable?
- How will you maintain supplies of water, food, medications, and other needs?

Preparedness





Preparedness





Service Animals

- Service animals are not considered as pets, they are necessary supports for individuals with disabilities. Don't forget to include them in your plan.
- If evacuation and sheltering are necessary, service animals can stay with the individual.





Service Animal Supplies

- License and ID tags
- copies of service animal documentation
- Immunization records, medications, and veterinarian's contact information
- extra animal food, water, and bowls
- Extra harness and/or leash
- Booties (practice using them!)



Service Animal Considerations

- Service animal may be frightened or injured
- May not be able to work immediately
- Increased risk of injury to paws from broken glass or debris on the ground
- Be prepared to use alternate equipment if the animal cannot provide its normal services



Protect Yourself During Earthquakes!

**IF
POSSIBLE**



DROP!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

**USING
CANE**



DROP!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

**USING
WALKER**



LOCK!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

**USING
WHEELCHAIR**



LOCK!



COVER!



HOLD ON!



www.EarthquakeCountry.org/disability



Drop, Cover, Hold On





Using a Cane





Using a Walker/Rollator



LOCK!



COVER!



HOLD ON!



Using a Wheelchair



LOCK!



COVER!



HOLD ON!



Earthquake Safety Video Series

For Those with a Mobility Disability





“Exercise to break the plan.”

Craig Fugate
FEMA Administrator

Savannah, GA October 2016
Keynote speaker at the
International Association
Emergency Managers (IAEM).





After an Earthquake

- Disability exacerbated due to lack of equal access to disaster related programs.
 - Includes individuals who shelter in place when it's not safe because of previous experiences
- Lack of access to power and medical equipment that may be life saving equipment like oxygen.
- Unable to obtain potable water or food that meets their needs.



After an Earthquake

- Shelters are not equipped with appropriate services.
 - Individuals' disabilities not recognized and inappropriate interventions that include placement in facilities
- Lack of accessible housing post-sheltering.
- Difficulties navigating red tape to receive supports.



After an Earthquake

- Separation from caregivers.
- Lack of Medicaid portability.
- When provided services like temporary housing, hotel rooms – wrap around services not provided (i.e. personal attendant services, accessible transportation).



Why People with Disabilities Need to be Reintegrated in Their Communities

- Legal Obligation
- Rehabilitation Act
- Stafford Act
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Civil Rights Law
 - Olmstead Decision



Why People with Disabilities Need to be Reintegrated in Their Communities

- Greater Oversight by Office of Civil Rights/Department of Justice and Protection and Advocacy Organizations
- The protections under the civil rights laws cannot be waived in a disaster



Why People with Disabilities Need to be Reintegrated in Their Communities

- Minimize trauma and depression
- Ensure individuals don't lose employment which could jeopardize independence
- Loss of services and supports that enabled individuals to live quality lives in their communities



Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion (READI) in Disasters Act

- Establish a National Commission on Disability Rights and Disasters
- Create a network of centers focused on training and technical assistance
- Directs the Department of Justice to review the spending of disaster funds by federal agencies and states
- Create a competitive grant program to pilot strategies for greater inclusion of people with disabilities and older adults in disaster preparation, response, recover, and mitigation



Disaster Relief Medicaid Act (DRMA).

- Ensures individuals eligible for Medicaid are able to continue to access their Medicaid supported services.
- Helps states meet the needs of Relief-Eligible Survivors through a limited time one hundred percent federal match for displaced individuals, technical assistance and support to develop innovative state strategies to respond to an influx of out-of-state individuals.



Best Practices

- **Coordinate Donations**
Organize personnel and donated resources to distribute equipment and supplies directly to disaster survivors with disabilities.
- **Capacity Building**
Train individuals with disabilities to self-advocate for themselves by raising awareness around disability rights and sheltering options/accommodations.



Best Practices

- Engage People With Disabilities and other Access & Functional Needs to practice alternatives to “Drop Cover and Hold On”
- Provide meaningful resources for the whole community
- Increase the number of People With Disabilities included in preparedness and outreach activities
 - Register individuals/groups in ShakeOut drills to quantify participation
 - Identify gaps in preparedness efforts



Best Practices

- Training

Develop a training for Emergency Managers, shelter staff, Health & Human Services staff, FEMA staff, county/local officials, law enforcement personnel, fire fighters and other first responders on their legal obligations and recommendations on ways to locally provide meaningful access for people with disabilities.



Best Practices

- **Core Advisory Groups.**
The collective power of diverse disability centric groups can be used to influence disability inclusive preparedness plans, response activities and recovery priorities.
- **Transportation Plans.**
Work with Emergency Management and disability organizations to develop viable plans to include accessible transportation.



Best Practices

- **Map Your Neighborhood.**

This is a proactive strategy to identify needs of citizens prior to disasters. Following disasters, these groups can be used to canvas affected neighborhoods to identify people who were affected by the disaster.



Best Practices

- Request local/statewide emergency plans from emergency management officials to assess the inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Explore legal solutions such as litigation and structured negotiations when all other attempts to protect disability rights during disasters have been exhausted.



Best Practices

- Include emergency preparedness as an independent living skill and offer related training to individuals with disabilities and their families.
- Identify accessible locations and hold local/county officials accountable for designating the use of these options as shelters/public resource centers.



Best Practices

- Advocate for your organization to be included in Mass Care Plans.
- Establish Functional Assessment Support Teams (FAST).
 - FAST can work in shelters and extend direct support to individuals with disabilities who shelter in place.



- Inclusion of people with disabilities and other access and functional needs must occur at ALL phases of emergency management.
- Planning saves lives - it is too late to bring people to the table to start planning when you are in the midst of a disaster.



QUESTIONS?



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