Disability Inclusive Disaster & Emergency Planning

Ms. Marcie Roth, Senior Advisor and Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination
Preventing for Disaster
Integrating the Access and Functional Needs of the Whole Community

July 2015

FEMA
“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 capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”
Roles and Responsibilities

- Disaster response and recovery
- Reducing risk from disasters through mitigation
- Preparedness training and exercises
- Train fire fighters and first responders
- Oversee the National Flood Insurance Program
- Oversee Preparedness Initiatives for the Nation
When does FEMA respond?

- State governors must request a federal emergency or disaster declaration.
- Joint Federal/State assessments of disaster damage to determine extent of need.
- Presidential approval of a declaration request allows FEMA to provide response and recovery assistance.
During a disaster, FEMA:

- Provides disaster aid to individuals, communities and states for recovery

- Promotes risk reduction from future disasters through mitigation efforts

- May also defray state and local costs of handling the disaster or emergency
FEMA also:

▪ Collaborates with State and local governments to staff Joint Field Offices (JFOs).

▪ Coordinates relief efforts with other federal agencies and voluntary organizations.

▪ Keeps the public informed of disaster activities.
FEMA Programs

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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
Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC)

Mission Statement

The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) guides FEMA’s commitment to achieving universally accessible, survivor centric, fully inclusive emergency management. This requires integrating the whole community inclusive of people with disabilities, people with access and functional needs, first responders, community partners and across government to achieve program, physical, and effective communication access throughout all FEMA programs, services, activities and functions before, during, and after disasters.
Disability Integration Cadre
Current force strength - 70 advisors (full time and reservists)
Projected force strength - 285 Advisors

- Disability Integration Advisor Leads
- Disability Integration Advisors
- American Sign Language Interpreters
- Certified Deaf Interpreters
- Resource Managers
- CART Reporters
- Branch Directors
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.
Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination in Emergency Programs on the Basis of Disability

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

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The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects the civil rights of persons with disabilities. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by the federal government, federal contractors, and by recipients of federal financial assistance.

- Any recipient or sub-recipient of federal funds is required to make their programs accessible to individuals with disabilities. Its protections apply to ALL programs and businesses that receive ANY federal funds.

- This applies to all elements of physical/architectural, programmatic and communication accessibility in all services and activities conducted by or funded by FEMA.
The Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws apply in:

- Preparation
- Training and exercises
- Notification
- Evacuation and transportation
- Sheltering
- First aid and medical services
- Temporary lodging and housing
- Transition back to the community
- Clean up
- Recovery
- Mitigation
- Other emergency- and disaster-related programs, services, and activities
NMSZ Percentage of People With Disabilities

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Mid-America Earthquake Center
Access and Functional Needs

- Children and adults with physical, mobility, sensory, intellectual, developmental, cognitive or mental health disabilities
- Older Adults
- People with chronic or temporary health conditions
- 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
- Others
Language Influences Behavior

- “Access and functional needs” NOT “special needs”
- “Whole community” NOT “special populations”
- “Disproportionate impact” NOT “vulnerable or at-risk populations”
- “Individuals” NOT “special populations”
- Planning “with” NOT planning “for”
Promising Practices:

- Universal accessibility is “baked in” to all aspects of community development, not an afterthought or annex
- People with disabilities are “at the table” and their role is real, not tokenized
- Qualified people with disabilities serve in leadership roles in emergency management
NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US
Memorandum of Agreement Between FEMA and NCIL, NDRN and PIOC:

Outlines the ways in which DHS/FEMA and national disability organizations will collaborate and develop relationships to carry out their respective responsibilities with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery operations in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism or man-made disaster.
UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY
UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY
UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY
Making accommodations is reactive, whereas universal design is proactive.
Preparedness
Preparedness

• **Individuals**
  • At home
  • At work
  • Away from home

• **Service Providers**
  • Preparing the people you assist
  • Personal preparedness
  • Facility preparedness

• **Communities**
  • Whole community planning
  • Universal accessibility
Preparedness Steps

• **BE INFORMED**
  • What hazards do I need to consider?
  • What are the preparedness and response resources close to me?

• **BUILD A KIT**
  • Personal and family inventory?
  • What do I need to maintain my health, safety and independence?

• **MAKE A PLAN**
  • Who can be a part of my support network?
  • What can I offer to others?

http://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs
Alerts and Warnings
Training


- Promising Practices Webinar Series with the ADA National Network
Exercises
EXERCISES

- Whole community practice for disasters
- People with a variety of disabilities must be included
- Actors should not be used
- People with disabilities should pose real life challenges
EVACUATION

AREAS OF RESCUE ASSISTANCE

- Directional sign indicating location of nearest area of rescue assistance
- Two-way communicator
- Instructions for use of space and communicator
- Exit sign (required by building/life safety code)

Area of Rescue Assistance Inside Exit Stairway

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Evacuation
Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) Guidance

- Planning
- Finding subject matter experts
- Selecting potential shelter sites
- Accessible toilets and bathing facilities
- Personal assistance service needs
- Health maintenance
- Durable Medical Equipment and Consumable Medical Supplies
- Legal obligations
- Service and assistance animals
Mass Care
Mass Care
Sheltering
Medical Equipment & Supplies
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.
Power Issues
Power Issues
Disaster Recovery Centers
Housing
Recovery
Mitigation Issues and Opportunities
Homeland Security Grants

FEMA/DHS FY 15 grant guidance “strongly encourages grantees to address how investments will provide equal access and increased effectiveness of emergency preparedness planning and response and to increase the involvement of disability inclusion experts as partners across all aspects of emergency management.”
FISCAL YEAR 2015
HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM
SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCE:
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN DISASTERS GUIDANCE

Examples of Allowable Use of Funds:
- Inclusive meeting practices
- Producing materials and tools
- General population shelter planning, training, equipment and supplies
- Accessible Alert, Warning and Notification systems
- Gap analysis
- Resource tracking
- Cross training
- Analysis and evaluation of potential shelter locations
- Planners
- Neighborhood leadership development
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.
Links to Resources on Disability Inclusive Emergency Management

**FEMA:**

- FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination History and Milestones [http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1423244940368-9abb6ef1b8f7ad8856b56250a535cabe/ODIC_History_and_Milestones.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1423244940368-9abb6ef1b8f7ad8856b56250a535cabe/ODIC_History_and_Milestones.pdf)
- FEMA Personal Assistance Services Contract FAQ [http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/pas-faq.aspx](http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/pas-faq.aspx)
- Are You Ready? [www.READY.Gov](http://www.READY.Gov)

**DHS:**

Disability.Gov:

- Disability.Gov Emergency Preparedness Links
  https://www.disability.gov/?s=&fq=topics_taxonomy:%22Emergency+Preparedness%5E%5E%22

DOJ:

- DOJ www.ada.gov
- DOJ Effective Communication http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm
- DOJ Project Civic Access http://www.ada.gov/civicac.htm
- DOJ 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
  http://www.ada.gov/briefs/calif_interest_br.pdf
  http://www.ada.gov/brooklyn-cil-brief.doc
- New York City Opinion and Order
  http://www.dralegal.org/sites/dralegal.org/files/casefiles/order_2.pdf

DOL:

- Office of Disability Employment Policy- Emergency Preparedness
  http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/EmergencyPreparedness.htm

HUD:

- HUD Guidance on CDBG Compliance with the Rehabilitation Act www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/notices/cpd/05-09c.doc
FCC:
- FCC Guidance on Accessibility of Emergency Information on Television
- FCC fact sheets on closed captioning and access to emergency information

HHS:
- Centers for Disease Control Disaster Information for People With Chronic Conditions and Disabilities
  - [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html)

US Access Board:
- Emergency Transportable Housing

National Council on Disability:
- Emergency Management
- Effective Communications for People with Disabilities: Before, During, and After Emergencies

Community:
- Planning for the Whole Community
  - [http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/Broadcasts/LRBroadcast0611.aspx](http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/Broadcasts/LRBroadcast0611.aspx)
- First Responder Guide
  - [http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/SPAWARAFN/index.html](http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/SPAWARAFN/index.html)
- CAL OES Office for Access and Functional Needs
- Disaster Resources for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs
  - [http://www.jik.com/disaster.html](http://www.jik.com/disaster.html)
- Checklist for inclusive emergency management
- Pass it on Center Emergency Management
- Portlight Strategies
  - [http://www.portlight.org/](http://www.portlight.org/)
- Institute on Disability at Temple University
- ADA National Network
  - [https://adata.org/topic/emergency-preparedness](https://adata.org/topic/emergency-preparedness)
- National Fire Protection Association
- United Spinal Wheelchair Safety At Home and at Work
International:
- Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network [http://www.didrrn.net/home/]
- ASB Arbeitet Samariter Bund [www.asb.de]
- CBM [www.cbm.org/emergencies]
- Centre for Disability in Development [www.cdd.org.bd]
- Handicap International [www.handicap-international.org]
- Malteser International [www.malteser-international.org]
- Pacific Disability Forum [www.pacificdisability.org]
- South Asian Disability Forum [www.sadf.asia]

Videos:
- Shakeout 2014 - Five Videos for People with Access and Functional Needs [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn6gqonhKC3oKFFLM6Hkl-RQJRheQzEB5]
- Planning for the Whole Community [http://terrorism.spcollege.edu/Broadcasts/LRBroadcast0611.aspx]
- Accessible Emergency Information [http://www.accessibleemergencyinfo.com/]
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