

Emergency Preparedness Belongs to Everyone

Suggestions on Behalf of
Individuals with Developmental
Disabilities

Events that Have Placed Emergency Preparedness & Disabilities on the Front Burner

- 9/11
- Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, Ike
- Katrina Aid today initiative
- HHS/DHS conference summer 2006
- Targeted Capabilities Work Groups
- State level initiatives

Treatment of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities: Analysis Post-Katrina

- Save and manage individuals with developmental disabilities
- Their individual preferences not necessarily considered
- Opportunities to contribute in planning, response, and recovery activities by individuals with developmental disabilities episodic and extremely limited

What Needs to Happen

- Personal education and responsibility
- Participation in neighborhood activities
- Participation in community activities
- Representation on community-level planning groups
- Participation and representation at the State level

Neighborhood Ideas that Can Grow

- Find lists and share
- Have meetings to brainstorm
- Make "go kits"
- Make up contact numbers to carry
- What do you need to stay at home
- How do we help each other

Community Preparedness

- Influence notification procedures
- Influence "locate" process
- Checkout shelters, find out about needed stuff and put near or in shelters in advance
- Identify volunteers to help out in shelters
- Help design forms that make sense
- Know who to call for what
- Take neighborhood ideas to community planning meetings
- Expect/request public education and awareness activities
- Get everyone involved

State Level

- Share guidelines on plain language [use a “Google” search for a ton of resources – www.google.com]
- Appoint individuals with developmental disabilities to planning committees and advisory boards
- Use individuals with developmental disabilities during a disaster as advisors, advocates, mentors, and helpers
- Maintain up-to-date information on where resources are located
- Maintain up-to-date directories
- Encourage and sponsor drills on a regular basis
- Develop and sustain a public awareness campaign that lets people know what to do and where to go for help
- Encourage and support a decentralized, but connected, web of support that begins at the neighborhood level and expands to the state
- Take a functional approach to helping, based on universal design

Functional Approach to Preparing for and Helping People Based on Universal Design

- Ask questions that allow you to make decisions
- Ask the person the questions
- Ask questions only once
- Keep people where they land with people they know
- Create a routine
- Give lots of updates
- Give people something to do with their time
- Connect people with others who can help them plan and decide what they will do when they leave
- Mobilize resources to secure what people expect

Last Word

- Individuals with developmental disabilities deserve and expect what all of us deserve and expect –
- To be included
- To be heard
- To influence
- To help
- To know what's happening
- To know what to do

In planning for and responding to disasters in communities

Resources: Federal

ADD

- Emergency preparedness is an ongoing process. Please check ADD's website frequently for updated links. www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add.
- Emergency Management Conference web site: <http://www.add-em-conf.com>

Resources: Federal

Department of Homeland Security

- Disability Preparedness Resource Center:
<http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/>
- Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC)
 - ICC Website
http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/committees/editorial_0591.shtm
- FEMA Disability Preparedness Information
<http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/>

Resources: Federal

National Council on Disability

- *Saving Lives: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning*
http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2005/saving_lives.htm

Department of Justice

- *An ADA Guide for Local Governments: Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities*
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/emergencyprep.htm>
- *A Report on Special Needs Issues, Efforts and Lessons Learned* <http://www.eadassociates.com/SNreport-dr1391.doc>

Resources: National Organizations

- **Emergency Preparedness Initiative of the National Organization on Disability**
- *Emergency Preparedness Initiative Guide for Emergency Managers, Planners and Responders*
<http://www.nod.org/resources/PDFs/epiguide2005.pdf>
- *Report on Special Needs Assessment for Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Project*
<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=feature.showFeature&FeatureID=1588&C:\CFusionMX7\verity\Data\dummy.txt>
- SABE: www.sabeusa.org [Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered]

Resources: National Organizations

AARP

- *We Can Do Better: Lessons Learned for Protecting Older Persons in Disasters (Summary)*
http://add-em-conf.com/confdocs/AARP_summary-doing_better-seniors_and_disasters_2006.pdf
- *We Can Do Better: Lessons Learned for Protecting Older Persons in Disasters (Full Report)*
http://add-em-conf.com/confdocs/AARP_full_report-doing_better-seniors_and_disasters_2006.pdf

Resources: State

New York City Regional Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

- ***9-11 Experience***

http://www.eadassociates.com/NYCRReport4_20_05_Hargett.doc

The California State Independent Living Center

- ***The Impact of 2003 Wildfires on People with Disabilities, April 1, 2004***

<http://www.eadassociates.com/wildfires.doc>

Resources: Other

- **Homeland Protection Professional – Special Needs Related Articles**

- *Special People, Special Care, March 2006, by Lisa Gibney, Robyn Reese, Ned Wright*

http://add-em-conf.com/confdocs/special_people_special_care.pdf

- *Are We Prepared for the Cost of Preparedness, April 2006, by Elizabeth Davis*

http://add-em-conf.com/confdocs/Prepared_for_the_cost_of_preparedness.pdf

- *Special Products Section, April 2006*

http://add-em-conf.com/confdocs/Spec_Prod_Section.pdf

Resources: Other

Other

- **Tips For First Responders In Assisting Persons With Disability:**
http://cdd.unm.edu/products/tips_web020205.pdf
- **Connecticut DD Network: Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness Planning:**
http://www.ct.gov/ctcdd/lib/ctcdd/Guide_final.pdf
- **IAEM Bulletins featuring Special Needs articles**
- <http://www.eadassociates.com/resources.html#qpub>

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