

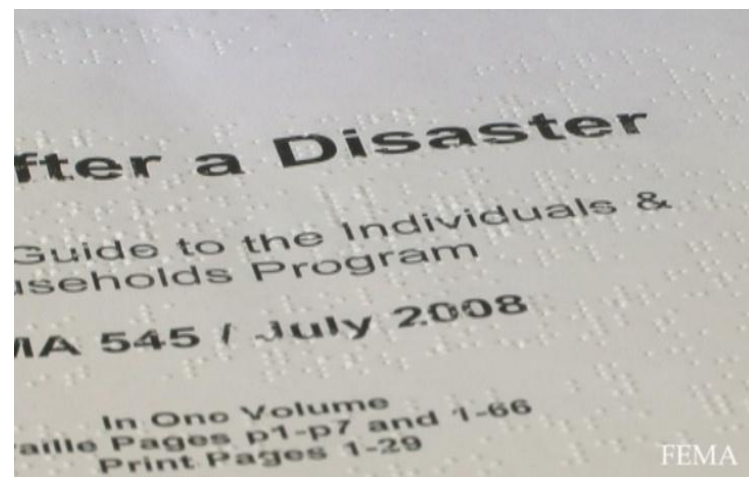
Disability Inclusive Emergency Management

Planning for and with the whole community

January, 2013



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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

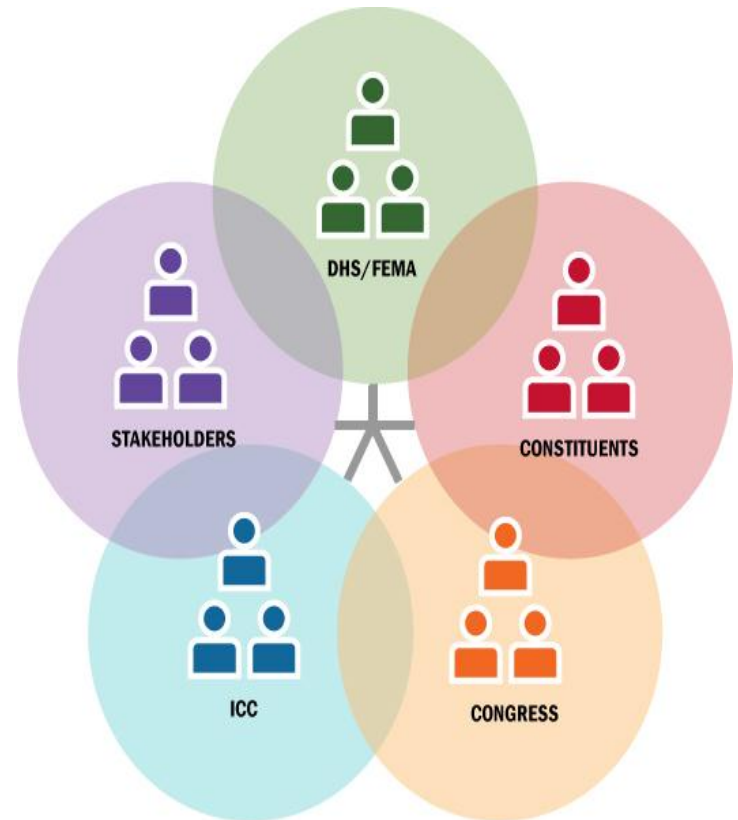


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Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

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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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.



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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, 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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Access and Functional Needs

- Children and adults with physical, 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



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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
- Exercises
- 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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Key Principles

- Equal Access
- Physical Access
- Access to Effective Communication
- Inclusion
- Integration
- Program Modifications
- No Charge



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Physical Access



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Programmatic Access



NO PETS
Except Service Animals



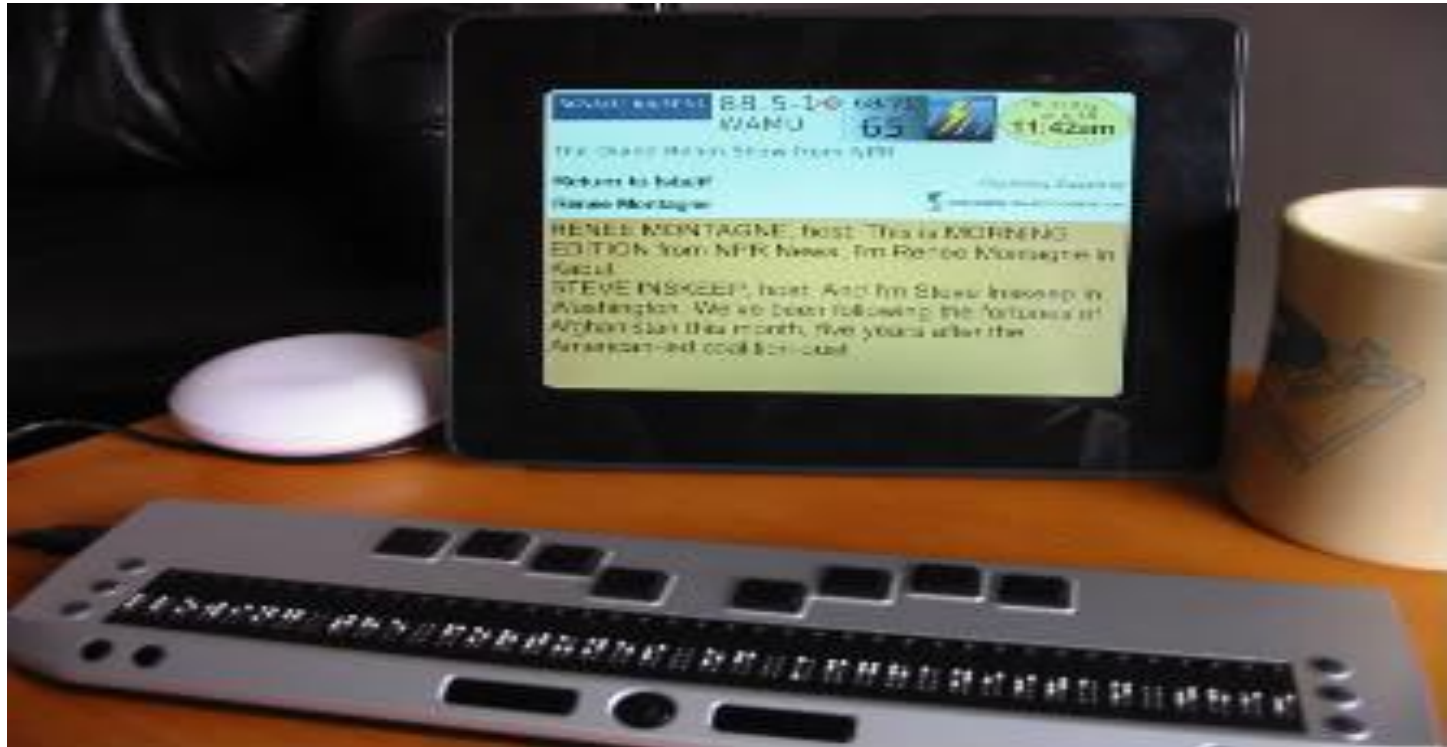
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Effective Communications Access



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Information has to be accessible to be actionable



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If you need:



ASL Interpreter

Large
Print

Materials In Large Print



Materials in Braille



Assistive Listening Device



TTY



Someone to explain

JUST ASK!



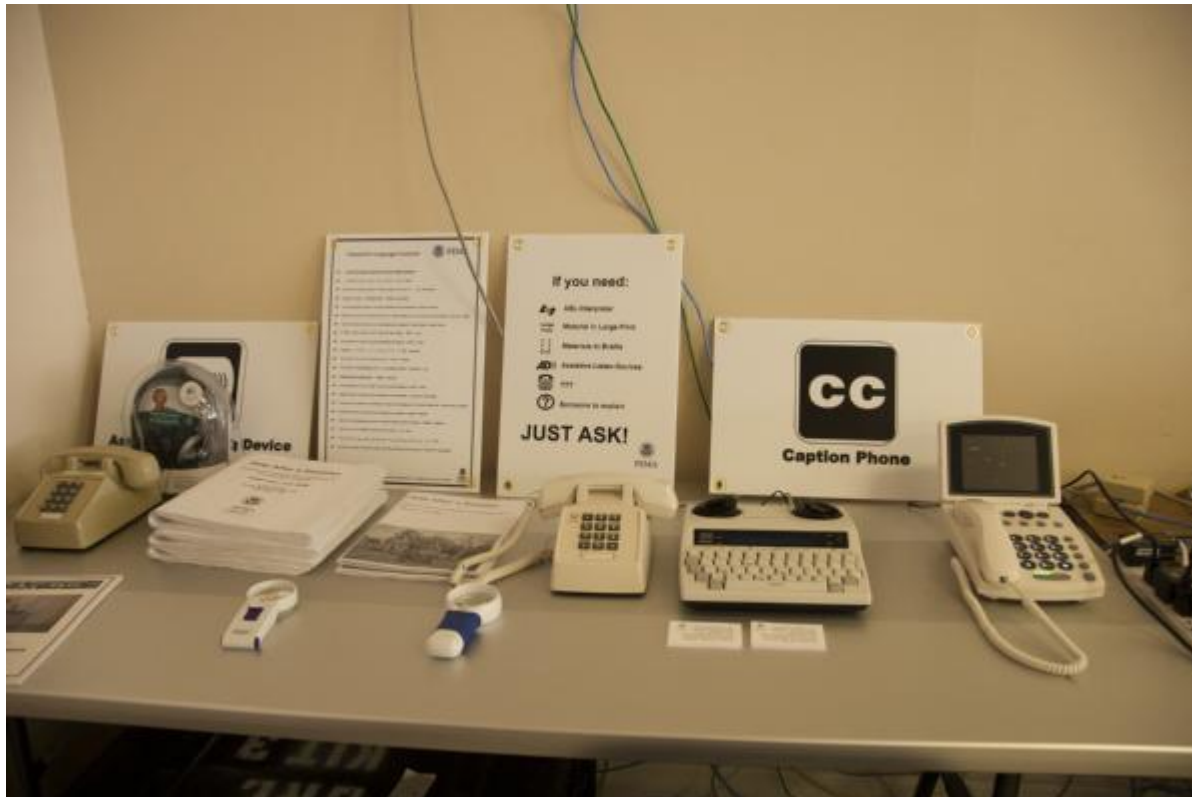
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Assets Not Liabilities



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Proactive community actions:

- Physical, programmatic and effective communication access in all aspects of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation
- 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.
- Active involvement in disaster recovery



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Partnership



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All Hazards Preparedness



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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



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Recovery

All community members must have equal opportunity to participate in community recovery efforts in a meaningful way.



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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)
- Local Hires
- Mandatory Schedule A training



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Promising Practices in Preparedness

www.fema.gov/about/odc



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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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