



Website Resources for Emergency Planning Regarding Persons with Special Needs* (01/06)

Institutional Planning Level:

- National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative's *Guide on the Special Needs of People with Disabilities for Emergency Managers, Planners & Responders*
Visit www.nod.org/emergency to obtain a copy of this Guide in pdf and text version, as well as, links to other specific preparedness information, and continuously updated information about disabilities and disaster planning
- Easter Seals *s.a.f.e.t.y. first: Working Together for Safer Communities*
www.easter-seals.org will provide the project materials for this workplace evacuation and safety measures planning
- Job Accommodation Network – a service of the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the U.S. Department of Labor
www.jan.wvu.edu will provide a document for employee emergency evacuation and also provide free guidance recommendation about workplace evacuation plans customized for a specific employee's special need
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Disability Preparedness Resource Center*
<http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/> offers information for emergency planners and first responders to help them to better prepare for serving persons with disabilities.
- FEMA/USFA
 - *Emergency Planning & Special Needs Populations G197 (offered via SEMO Training Office)*
 - *Emergency Procedures for Employees with Disabilities in Office Occupancies (publication FA-154)*
 - *Orientation Manual for First Responders on the Evacuation of People with Disabilities (publication FA-235)*www.usfa.fema.gov/usfapubs/index.cfm will provide the publications in pdf and alternate versions
- U.S. Access Board
www.access-board.gov has posted its agency's own planning methodology and plan criteria as an example as well as providing guidance on the structural requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pertaining to evacuation

* This is an annotated list of the best sources of information to begin research using. For a more complete listing of recommendations or other specific resource information, contact EAD & Associates, LLC - Emergency Management & Special Needs Consultants at 718-330-0034 or mail@eadassociates.com.

- U.S. Equal Opportunity Office
www.eeoc.gov/facts/evacuation.html will provide guidance about the use of employee medical/disability information for emergency planning by the employer
- U.S. Department of Justice
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/emergencyprep.htm> will provide guidance about basic areas of emergency preparedness and response which must be accessible to people with disabilities as developed and implemented by local authorities
- National Center for Accessible Media - The Access to Emergency Alerts project
<http://ncam.wgbh.org/alerts/> unites emergency alert providers, local information resources, telecommunications industry and public broadcasting representatives, and consumers in a collaborative effort to research and disseminate replicable approaches to make emergency warnings accessible. The website provides information on developments and resources in this topic area.
- Nobody Left Behind Program at the University of Kansas
http://rtcil.org/NLB_home.htm has posted information on the ongoing research project to investigate 30 randomly selected counties, cities, or boroughs in the United States that have recently experienced a natural or man-made disaster in order to study impacts on persons with mobility impairments. The website has an extensive resource list as well.
- West Virginia University's *Project Safe EV-AC*
<http://evac.icdi.wvu.edu> is a three year development project to improve evacuation from buildings, vehicles, and other settings during emergencies by providing training materials on the evacuation and accommodation of people with disabilities. The website provides information about the program and how to get involved.



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Individual Planning Level:

- National Organization on Disability's Emergency Preparedness Initiative www.nod.org/emergency is a repository of continuously updated information for both the disability community and the emergency professional and will provide links to specific preparedness information, checklists and guidelines for people with disabilities and information about disabilities and disaster planning.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conjunction with the American Red Cross (ARC) has published many documents for individual disaster preparedness. Those most helpful for people with special needs are listed and may be obtained from your local Red Cross chapter or the FEMA Distribution Center 1-800-480-2520 or www.fema.gov/library; alternate formats are also available.
 - Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities (ARC – 5091)
 - Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs (FEMA 476 A 4497) *note*: replaces ARC – A4497
 - Disaster Preparedness for Seniors by Seniors (ARC – A5059)
 - Your Family Disaster Plan (FEMA/ARC – A4466)
 - Your Family Disaster Supply Kit (FEMA/ARC – 4463)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Disability Preparedness Resource Center* <http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/>. This disability preparedness website provides practical information on how people with and without disabilities can prepare for an emergency. It also provides information for family members of, and service providers to, people with disabilities.
- Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions www.cdihp.org/evacuationpdf.htm *Emergency Evacuation Preparedness: Taking Responsibility For Your Safety – A Guide for People with Disabilities and Other Activity Limitations*
- Prepare Now www.preparenow.org is a California site but links information about disaster preparedness for specific special needs
- www.ready.gov is a comprehensive general emergency planning site maintained by the federal government and the Department of Homeland Security
- www.EmergencyEmail.org is one of several free sign-up services that will forward customized geographic emergency information to subscribers via e-mail or alpha pager systems as the information breaks.

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Research Resources for Emergency Planning Regarding Persons with Special Needs (04/07)*

- Project Safe EV-AC, a three year development project based out of West Virginia University and in its final phase, will improve evacuation from buildings, vehicles, and other settings during emergencies by providing training materials on the **EV**acuation and **AC**commodation of people with disabilities. Project Safe EV-AC materials will be **Sound, Accessible, Free, and Effective**. Project Safe EV-AC is targeting specific audiences, including people with disabilities and emergency responders. The project site can be found at <http://evac.icdi.wvu.edu/>.
- With funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) is conducting The **Access to Emergency Alerts for People with Disabilities Project**, a three-year initiative coming to a close now to research and disseminate approaches to making emergency alerts and information accessible to people with disabilities. The project's goal is to encourage adoption of standardized methods, systems and services to identify, filter and present emergency information in ways that are meaningful to people with disabilities. This will be accomplished by development of an information model that provides recommended accessibility extensions to emergency system protocols and technologies; end-user testing that will identify key usability factors that must be addressed to serve people with sensory disabilities; and a repository of replicable practices. This project can be found at <http://ncam.wgbh.org/alerts/>.
- At the University of Kansas, Research and Training Center on Independent Living, a three year grant was awarded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention through the Association for Prevention, Teaching and Research. This first of its kind research project is titled, Nobody Left Behind (NLB): Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Mobility Impairments. The focus of this empirical study is on 30 county level or equivalent emergency management sites across the United States that had experienced a recent disaster. The researchers aimed to determine the readiness of these sites to assist persons with mobility impairments during disasters. Another component of the NLB study is a qualitative narrative analysis derived from an on-line survey of persons with mobility impairments who had survived a disaster or emergency. This survey explored what was deemed helpful for survival, difficulties experienced during and after the disaster, lessons learned, and future directions for emergency management from the consumer perspective. <http://www2.ku.edu/~rrtcpbs/index.shtml>
- Also out of the University of Kansas is a recently issued report, Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Persons with Disabilities which can be found at <http://rtcil.org/>.

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- In response to the devastation and tragic loss of life caused by Hurricane Katrina, the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.) deployed four rapid assessment teams to investigate the status of response and recovery for the special needs populations, which included people with disabilities, the elderly and medically managed individuals. Their goal was to identify and review systemic points of weakness, as well as and opportunities for immediate actionable corrections that will alleviate suffering during emergency response operations. The assessment teams were comprised of nationally recognized disability and emergency management specialists. N.O.D.'s efforts were funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration. The full report can be found at <http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1430&nodeID=1&FeatureID=1545&redirected=1&CFID=415988&CFTOKEN=43047003> .