



# NOBODY LEFT BEHIND

**Emergency  
Preparedness  
for  
Persons with  
Disabilities  
(PWD)  
and/or  
Mobility  
Impairments  
(MI)**



# Disasters

Sudden, calamitous events that seriously disrupt the functioning of a community or society and cause human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources.



EARTHQUAKES



LANDSLIDES AND MUDSLIDES



VOLCANOES



EXTREME HEAT



LIGHTNING



WILDFIRES



FLOODS



TORNADOES



WINTER WEATHER



HURRICANES



TSUNAMIS

**PANDEMICS**



# The Genesis of a Revelation

[https://youtu.be/aPq0w\\_psbxs](https://youtu.be/aPq0w_psbxs)



America's Emergency Preparedness Epiphany



# The Importance of Emergency Preparedness

- University of Kansas “Nobody Left Behind” Study
  - Determined whether counties that experienced a disaster in the past 5 years had systems of emergency preparedness and response for PWD/MI.
  - Evaluated surveillance systems that can identify morbidity and mortality frequency and prevalence for PWD/MI exposed to a disaster.
  - Identified FEMA-declared disasters between 1989-2003. Selected a random sample of 30 counties across 10 federal regions. Interviewed county emergency managers and evaluated their disaster plans in place at the time of occurrence and more recently for actions targeting persons with mobility disabilities.
  - Only 27% of county emergency managers had taken FEMA Emergency Planning and Special Needs Course (G-197) pertaining to PWD.
  - PWD either were not represented or had minimal representation in the emergency planning process.
  - Surveillance efforts to identify PWDs and mobility impairments were weak.



# The Hard Questions

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has been in existence for more than 20 years...yet disaster-related or local services can still be deemed inaccessible, and disaster-related personnel uninformed of the needs of PWD and how to assist them. Why?
- Are there differences in disaster preparedness for persons who are disabled, seniors, or seriously ill?
- Are there differences within classes, races, and among states?
- When will local emergency management infrastructures be strengthened?
- Is your local government prepared?
- Have you prepared yourself?



# Lessons Learned

- Emergency response and recovery measures did not accommodate PWD.
  - Inadequate warning systems.
  - People left behind when evacuating buildings.
  - Non-accessible shelters.
  - Lack of transportation to sites for relief services, and so on.
- There was a lack of relief workers and other service personnel, including mental health professionals experienced in working with PWD and the knowledge of benefits to help them.
- After the event, many vital services remained disrupted or disallowed, even when it became clear that doing so placed people with disabilities at risk.

*Source: Lessons Learned from the World Trade Center Disaster: Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities in New York, September 9, 2004, The Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY*



## Lessons Learned



- 34 people died when flood waters from Hurricane Katrina (2005) inundated St. Rita's Nursing Home in Violet, LA.



## “Survival Of The Fittest” Mentality



- Hurricane Rita (2005) forced an evacuation from Brighton Gardens nursing home in Bellaire, TX.
- 37 residents, 6 staff
- 23 elderly died
- The sheriff's deputy who arrived on the scene struggled to guide people out of the bus. "The sheriff's deputy trying to get people off the bus used his flashlight, telling passengers to 'follow the light' and some of them did but not all of them could," said John Wiley Price, a Dallas County Commissioner.



# Lessons Learned




- 15 elderly were evacuated by helicopter from the La Vita Bella nursing home after Hurricane Harvey (2017).
- The picture was shared on Twitter by Timothy McIntosh, who said his mother-in-law owns the nursing home.
- His wife, Kimberly McIntosh, said her mother sent the picture at 9 a.m. [Sunday] morning.
- “She said it was a disaster and they were hoping the National Guard would come,” Kimberly McIntosh said.



# Preparing for Emergencies and Disasters

- Pack an emergency supply kit
- Establish a Family Emergency Plan
- Establish a Family Communication Plan
- Register with local Emergency Managers
- Be familiar with Local Red Cross chapter or Emergency Management Agency Plan
- Tap into resources from Federal agencies and State Disability and Health Programs
- <https://www.ready.gov/disability>
- [Alerting People with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs | FEMA.gov](https://www.ready.gov/disability)
- Have your own medical and other supplies

**Ready.** Family Emergency Plan 

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Neighborhood Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out-of-Neighborhood Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out-of-Town Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name	Date of Birth	Social Security Number	Important Medical Information
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans that you and your family need to know about.

Work Location One	School Location One
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Work Location Two	School Location Two
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Work Location Three	School Location Three
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Other place you frequent	Other place you frequent
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____


Name	Telephone Number	Policy Number


Dial 911 for Emergencies

**PET EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST**


Stock up on items your pet may need during a disaster. Below are some items to help you get started.

- ☐ Pet first aid kit
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Bowls
- ☐ Extra collar
- ☐ Extra leash
- ☐ Medical records
- ☐ Two-week supply of medications
- ☐ Crate or sturdy carrier
- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- ☐ Toys and bones
- ☐ Disposable litter trays
- ☐ Litter or paper toweling
- ☐ Disposable bags for clean-up



 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CS259306-C

**AMERICA'S PrepareAthon!** **Ready** 

Write your family's name above

**Family Emergency Communication Plan**

Household Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other # or social media: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other # or social media: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other # or social media: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Important medical or other information: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER, AND WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Plan/Pick-Up: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Plan/Pick-Up: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Plan/Pick-Up: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Plan/Pick-Up: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

Indoor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out-of-Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Out-of-Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT NUMBERS OR INFORMATION

Police: \_\_\_\_\_ Dial 911 or # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fire: \_\_\_\_\_ Dial 911 or # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Poison Control: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dentist: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pediatrician: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pharmacist: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medical Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hospital/Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Homeowner/Rental Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flood Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Life Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kennel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Electric Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gas Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Automobile/Accessible Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# Surviving Emergencies and Disasters

- Make yourself known..... IDENTIFY
- PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE
- Use common sense
- Register with your local Emergency Managers
- Be involved with the planning
- Plan in advance for accessible services
- Have your own medical and other supplies
- Have a POC to report your health/location
- Have alternate/extra sources of power
- Have adequate insurance





# The Value of Emergency Preparedness

- Lessons learned from previous catastrophes (9/11, Katrina, Rita, Harvey)
- Previous mentality of “survival of the fittest”
- Having no plans or inadequate plans leads to “survival mode”
- “Failing to plan is planning to fail.” – Benjamin Franklin



# Contact Information

**Shonda Moore**

**Program Manager for PWDs**

If you would like to have me present, train staff, or participate in any Diversity & Inclusion event, please email [Shonda.Moore@usda.gov](mailto:Shonda.Moore@usda.gov).

**I am always available to answer any questions you may have!**



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