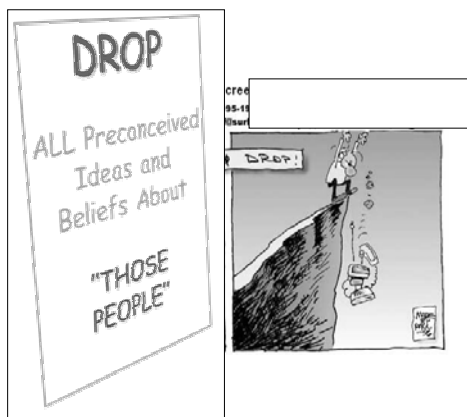


Stop Drop and Roll

Emergency Preparedness
For and With
People with Special Needs



ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES



What Do We Mean by Special Needs Population?



Definition of Disability

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a disability as a "Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities."

Why it Matters

- Plans that do not specifically include PWDs will fail a large percentage of the population
- Aside from the moral and ethical responsibility to include PWDs in emergency plans, it is also the LAW

Why it Matters

- Disaster preparedness plans must consider the needs of people with special needs during evacuation, sheltering and returning home

What Law?

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that emergency preparedness and response programs be accessible to people with disabilities

What Law?

- Critics say there is currently no standardized federal preparedness plan for people with disabilities, and many state and local emergency management offices do not have appropriate plans in place to account for special needs

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

- Nondiscrimination Under Federal Grants and Programs
 - Ensures that people with disabilities cannot be excluded or discriminated against in any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance

- CDC, 2004:
 - People with disabilities, people with mental illness and emotional instabilities, minority groups, non-English speakers, children and the elderly



- **FEMA, 2004:**
 - Adds single working parents, people without vehicles, people with special dietary needs
- Others add pregnant women, prisoners, people in poverty and morbidly obese

What ARE the Numbers?

Population and Category	Total	% of U.S. Total
Children, age 15 & under	64,272,779	22.84
Elderly, age 65 and older	34,991,753	12.43
Speak English "not well" age 18-64	5,703,904	2.03
Speak English "not at all" age 18-64	2,575,154	0.92
Noninstitutionalized with a disability, age 16-64	33,153,211	11.78
Total Special Needs	140,696,801	49.99

Add Onto Those Numbers:

- Institutionalized: 4 million
- Minority Groups: 70 million
- Zero Vehicle Households: 10.8 million
- Pregnant: 6 million per year
- On Kidney Dialysis: 287,494 in 2001
- Morbidly Obese: 9 million

Don't Forget

- People with limited literacy
- People socially, culturally, geographically isolated
- People with substance abuse issues
- Persons who are homeless, marginally housed or shelter dependent

And.....

- Children with special circumstances
- People living in poverty
- People with special health needs
- People in need of hospice services
- Those impacted by the emergency

Special Populations: They Are Us....



Why It Matters

- **DISASTERS HAPPEN!!**
- **1 out of 5 Americans have disabilities**
- **There are 600,000 Mississippians with disabilities**
- **Largest population with disabilities per capita in the nation**

Why It Matters

- **Many people with disabilities have needs that are different from those of people without disabilities**
- **AND different from each other**



"One-Size-Fits-All Approach"

DOES NOT WORK!!

What can the local government do to be better prepared to meet the needs of people with disabilities during an emergency?



How Do We Plan?

- A. Break it down to manageable parts**
- B. Understand different needs**
- C. BE INCLUSIVE**



A. Break Down To Manageable Parts

- Personal preparedness
- Community-based Preparedness
- Infrastructure preparedness



B. Understand Different Needs

- Think broadly about special populations
 - Use a function based approach (CMIST)
- Communication*
Medical
Maintaining
Functional
Independence
Supervision
Transportation

Communication Needs

- Need information provided in methods that they can use and understand
- Includes people who have limitations that interfere with the receipt of, and effective response to information but need it provided in methods that they can understand and use

Medical Needs

- Include individuals who are not self sufficient, or do not have adequate support from family or friends and need assistance in order to be sustained
- Often people with visible or hearing impairments are mistakenly put into this group

Maintaining Functional Independence

- Costly deterioration of health and function mobility can be avoided if certain at risk individuals are identified and screened early enough
- Intervention may prevent secondary conditions and institutionalization
- Success may reduce the need for allocation of scarce resources

Supervision Needs

- Includes support for those who do not have or have lost adequate support from family, friends or personal care attendant
- Can include people known in advance but also will include those who have needs because of the disaster

Transportation Needs

- As seen with Katrina, emergency response requires mobility
- The numbers of mobility impaired are huge and the need for specific plans are great



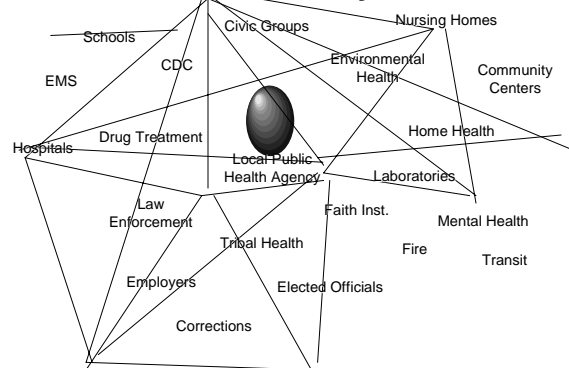
Special Need	Additional Steps
Visually impaired	May be extremely reluctant to leave familiar surroundings when the request for evacuation comes from a stranger. A guide dog could become confused or disoriented in a disaster. People who are blind or partially sighted may have to depend on others to lead them, as well as their dog, to safety during a disaster.
Hearing impaired	May need to make special arrangements to receive warnings.
Mobility impaired	May need special assistance to get to a shelter.
Single working parent	May need help to plan for disasters and emergencies.
Non-English speaking persons	May need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep people informed.
People without vehicles	May need to make arrangements for transportation.
With special dietary needs	Should take special precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply.
With Medical conditions	Should know the location and availability of more than one facility if dependent on a dialysis machine or other life-sustaining equipment or treatment.
With developmental disability	May need help responding to emergencies and getting to a shelter.
People with dementia	Should be registered in the Alzheimer's Association Safe Return Program.

C. Be Inclusive

- Don't forget that they are us!
- Ensure that planning is not completed in a vacuum
- Include representative from a variety of groups in exercises
- Seek input continuously



Public Health System



Katrina and Rita, 2005



Can you name consequences to the public health infrastructure as a result of the lack of planning with the community?

Seven Key Principles Should Guide Disaster Relief

1. Accessible Disaster Facilities and Services
2. Accessible Communications and Assistance
3. Accessible and Reliable Rescue Communications
4. Partnerships with the Disability Community

Seven Key Principles Should Guide Disaster Relief

5. **Disaster Preparation, Education, and Training**
6. **Partnerships with the Media**
7. **Universal Design and Implementation Strategies**

Suggested Letter.....

Dear County Emergency Management Officer,
...One of the priorities for the coming year for the Division of Emergency Management is to improve disaster preparedness outreach to persons with disabilities...

I'm writing you today to urge you to contact state organizations that work with people with Disabilities' and the aging populations, these are community resources that can help you understand disability issues of all kinds.

From communicating with persons with disabilities to making your shelter accessible, they are a valuable resource...

Mississippi Disability Community Should Be Included In.....

- **Organizing to meet needs in Mississippi and surrounding states**
- **Presentations at Emergency Preparedness Conferences**
- **Distribution of hurricane preparedness kits**
- **Community Education**
- **Planning with local emergency management offices**
- **State-wide taskforce**

Creation of Emergency Hotline

- **Emergency procedures in the event of a need to evacuate**
- **Allows individuals to communicate when and where to go and get accurate updates**
- **Allows others to offer resources including shelters, wheelchairs, medications, supplies, etc.**
- **Ensures continuity of services to evacuees with special needs**

Emergency Preparedness Should Be On Going

- **Hurricane preparedness resources distributed to all consumers each year**
- **All new consumers offered assistance from agencies to develop a personal disaster plan**

Emergency Preparedness Should Be On Going

- **All consumers receive materials to sign up for a special needs registry**
- **Ongoing participation in Gulf Coast Recovery meetings with others**

Emergency Preparedness Should Be On Going

- Agencies & organizations trained in disaster response
- Youth Initiative
- Ongoing resource for impacted consumers

Collaboration and New Partnerships

- Outreach to local non-profits
- Organizations & churches
- Disability support groups



Next Steps

- Enforcement of laws to protect people with disabilities during emergencies
- Federal-level encouragement of partnerships with local non-profits
- Incentives for community partners

This Must NEVER Happen Again!

While there are no concrete estimates of how many people with disabilities died as a result of Hurricane Katrina, 71 percent of the 1,330 victims were older than 60, according to a 2005 report by the White House, suggesting people with special needs suffered disproportionately.



According to the National Council on Disability, 155,000 residents living in the three cities hardest hit by Katrina – Biloxi, MS; Mobile, AL; and New Orleans, LA were disabled and over the age of five.



**By Planning and
Working Together.....**

**We Can Keep An Emergency
From Becoming A Disaster**



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