


**American Sign Language
(ASL) Phrases for Emergency
Personnel and Responders**



Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
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• Fingerspelling and words play a vital role, for first responders, when communicating to a deaf individual. Phrases can be used to convey information in depth.

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• Gestures and facial expressions are just as important as signs. Do not assume all deaf people know how to sign or can read signs. It is important to try to communicate by any means necessary during an emergency situation.

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The 5 rules of ASL are to use parameters. Parameters describe how a sign is used within the signer's space. The 5 rules are:

1. Hand Shape: The Alphabet
2. Palm Orientation: Out/In, Face Left/Right, Up/Down
3. Movement: Up/Down, Forward/Backward, Back and Forth, Wiggle
4. Location: Front Body, Left/Right Side of Body, Chin, Shoulder, etc
5. Expression (non-manual signs): Head Nod/Shake/Tilt, Eyebrows Up/Down, Eyes Open/Narrow, Mouth Perched/Open

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**American Sign Language (ASL)
Phrases for Emergency Personnel and
Responders**

- This module, will present a list of phrases to be used with a deaf or hard of hearing person. Learning sign language can help reduce fears and create a clear form of communication.

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**ASL Phrases for Emergency
Personnel and Responders**

1. Hello, my name is....
2. What is your name?
3. What is your address?
4. How old are you?
5. When is your birthday?
6. What is your phone number?

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**ASL Phrases for Emergency
Personnel and Responders**

7. Emergency contact name?
8. Emergency contact number?
9. Can you write?
10. Can someone interpret?
11. Are you pregnant?
12. Have you taken any drugs?

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ASL Phrases for Emergency Personnel and Responders

- 13. Are you ok?
- 14. Do you need help?
- 15. How do you feel?
- 16. What is wrong?
- 17. What happened?
- 18. Where do you hurt?

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ASL Phrases for Emergency Personnel and Responders

- 19. Are you allergic to any medicine?
- 20. Do you take any medicine?
- 21. What is the name of your medication?
- 22. How long have you been in pain?
- 23. Take slow deep breaths
- 24. Do you have breathing problems?

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ASL Phrases for Emergency Personnel and Responders

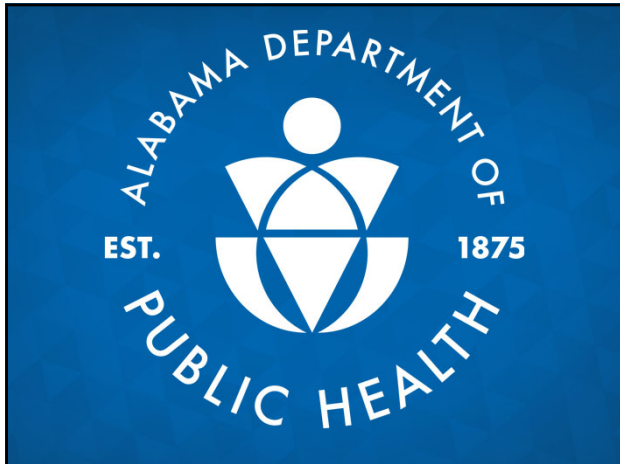
- 25. Do you have asthma?
- 26. Do you have an inhaler?
- 27. Do you have seizures?
- 28. Do you have diabetes?
- 29. Follow me
- 30. I don't know
- 31. I don't understand

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ASL Phrases for Emergency Personnel and Responders

- 32. Your blood pressure is high
- 33. Your blood pressure is low
- 34. When did this start?
- 35. You have a fever
- 36. Do you feel dizzy?
- 37. Do you feel nauseous?
- 38. You need to go to the hospital

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