

Special Needs Populations in Disaster Response

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast

Thursday, September 11, 2008 • 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)
1:00-2:30 p.m. (Eastern) • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mountain) • 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Pacific)

In wake of recent natural disasters, agencies all over the country are revising their emergency response plans. A new push for personal preparedness is also underway across the nation so it seems with all of the preparing going on, no one should be left behind or uncertain of what to do when it comes to being prepared for an emergency. But it turns out there is one part of the population that emergency personnel are still learning about when it comes to disaster response – and that's those with special needs.

According to government statistics, about 19 percent of the U.S. population, or an estimated 53 million Americans, are living with special needs. That category includes the disabled, the elderly, people with mental health issues, the visually and hearing impaired, single heads of households, children 15 and under and non-English speakers. The president of the Disability Preparedness Center in Washington D.C. says even though there's been an awareness about the issue, emergency responders have only recently started taking people with special needs into account, and they're finding the population is very diverse.

This is why it's important to start planning now. Where is the special needs population in your community? What are the needs? Can designated shelters care for the population? How can those with special needs plan ahead to help you in times of disaster? This program will help you better understand what to expect and how to prepare when responding to the special needs population in times of disaster.

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Target Audience: Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Administrators, Emergency Medical Response providers, Health Care providers, Disaster Management Personnel, community leaders, Government Officials.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphn

CEUs: None for this program

Satellite Technical Information: Ku & C bands

Webcast Access: On the day of the program, go to www.adph.org/alphn and click on the "view webcast" link.

Windows Media Player or Real Player are required to view the webcast.

Conference Materials: Posted on ADPH website approximately one week before the program.

PROGRAM FORMAT:

You are invited to join an in-depth question and answer session hosted by faculty from the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness. The content of the discussion will be determined by you.

Your questions will be answered live as they are received throughout the broadcast.

You can email your questions in advance to: alphn.questions@adph.state.al.us

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Discuss the basic principals which should underlie disaster consequence management planning.
2. Explain the influence of lifestyle and culture on disaster management within a population at risk.
3. Identify several special needs in a potential local population risk and assess significant characteristics of their requirements.
4. Describe the need for urgent disaster related support of special needs populations.
5. List some tools available in the context of disaster driven lifesaving and consequent management.

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