



16th International Mobility Conference 'Transitions; moving on, moving out'

Disaster Planning for Individuals who are Visually Impaired

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DISASTER PLANNING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT VERSUS INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT?

- Little input into disaster planning
- Emergency Preparedness information is not available in accessible formats
- Assumptions that someone else has taken care of it.

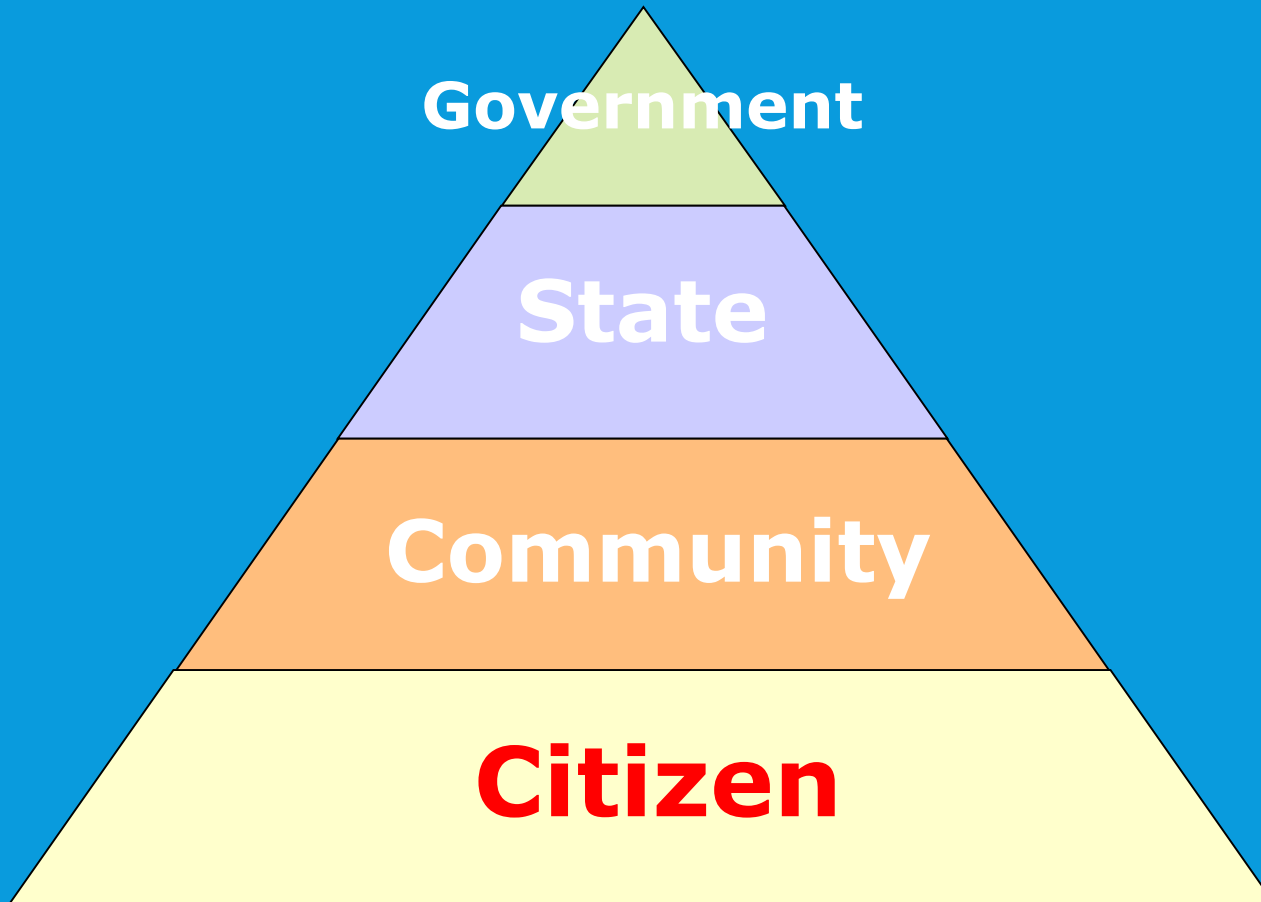
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Be prepared for disasters
- Share this information
- Assist individuals you work with in being prepared for any emergency
- Participate in community's disaster preparation planning
- Encourage others to participate
- Advocate on behalf of the individuals you work with.
- Never assume plans are in place for disaster.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Emergency preparedness means being:
 - Being prepared yourself and having your family prepared for all kinds of emergencies
 - Able to respond in time of crisis to save lives and property
 - Able to help a community return to normal life after a disaster.

WHO CAN YOU DEPEND ON?



STEP ONE: GET INFORMED

- Be knowledgeable about:
 - Natural Hazards
 - Man-made Hazards
 - Community Hazards
 - Community Disaster Plans
 - Community Warning Systems
 - Assistance Programs for Individuals with Special Needs



- ICE phone #
- Check Local City/Town's plan-What is the Community Warning System?
- Do you know your Agency or Community's plan?

STEP TWO: MAKE A PLAN

- Meet with family and review about community hazards and emergency plans
 - Choose an "Out-of-Town" Contact
 - Decide Where to Meet
 - Complete a Communications Plan
 - Escape Routes and Safe Places
 - Plan for Animals

THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE A DISASTER

- Utilities
- Fire Extinguisher
- Smoke Alarms
- Insurance Coverage
- First Aid/CPR
- Inventory Home Possessions
- Vital Records and Documents
- Reduce Home Hazards

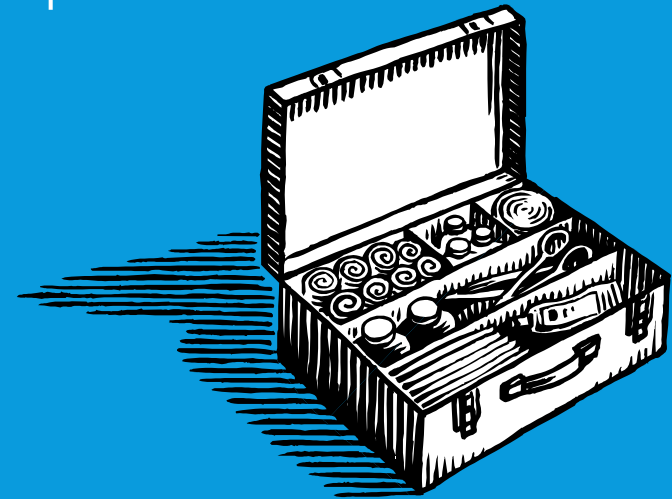


STEP THREE: ASSEMBLE A KIT

- Should have food, water, and other supplies to last for at least three days.
- Every household should assemble a disaster supply kit and keep it up to date.
- Have emergency supplies for home, work, and vehicles.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- Water & Food
- First Aid supplies & Non-Prescription and Prescription
- Kitchen Items
- Equipment and Tools
- Clothing & Comfort Items
- Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies
- Documents and Keys
- Flashlights, crank-up radio & extra batteries
- Contact information
- Animal supplies
- Map
- Remember the special needs of family members



STEP FOUR: MAINTAIN YOUR PLAN AND KIT

- Review plan
- Conduct fire and emergency evacuation drills
- Keep canned foods in a dry cool place
- Keep kit in airtight portable containers
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months
- Write the date you store it on all containers
- Check clothing and other supplies
- Update your communication plan
- Update animal plan

IF DISASTER STRIKES

- Stay put
- Get away
- Evacuate



ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Create a Personal Support Network
- Complete a Personal Assessment



PERSONAL ASSESSMENT PLANS

- Base plan on the lowest anticipated level of functioning
 - ADL issues
- Evacuating: What is the plan for home & day/work program?

TIPS FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES

- Canes
- Guide Dog Issues
- Alternate Mobility Cues
- Label Supplies
- Secure Computers
- Advocacy Issues
- Transportation Plan



(from the American Red Cross www.redcross.org)

ANIMAL SAFETY

- Have a safe place to take pets or Service Dog
- Assemble a portable Animal Disaster Supplies Kit
- Have Neighbor as back up in a disaster
- Keep animals secured and attended
- Do not leave animals behind.

(from the [Humane Society](#) and the American Red Cross)



QUESTION TO ASK

- How does agency/town plan to communicate with residents/workers/clients?

NOTIFICATION ISSUES

- TV announcements/notices are not in usually in an audio format.
- Be sure websites are accessible to screen reader software.
- All handouts should be in large print, at least 14 point or larger.

EVACUATION, EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

- How are folks expected to get to a shelter or evacuate without a car?
- Will accessible transportation be provided? Is the pick up location accessible to walk to? Are there detailed walking directions?
- Shelter/meeting areas should be accessible by Public Transportation with detailed walking directions from the bus stop and/or train/subway station. etc.

HANDOUT

- Resource List
- Disaster Supplies Calendar
- Suggestions for Making Community Emergency Preparedness Programs Accessible

RESOURCES TO PURCHASE EMERGENCY SUPPLY KITS

- 911 Pack: www.911pack.com
- Solar Lanterns & Radios: Check out hardware/outdoor rec stores
- NOAA Radio information: www.weather.gov/nwr/nwrrrcvr.htm
- Or “Google” ‘emergency supply kits’ for other resources.
 - (No endorsement implied!)

EVACUATION CHAIR RESOURCES

- Garaventa Accessibility: Evacu-Trac Emergency Evacuation Chair www.garaventa.ca or www.evacutrac.com 800-663-6556
- Stryker: Safety Evacuate Immobile Personnel Chair: www.evacuation.stryker.com 800-784-4336



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