

*Prepare for the Unexpected: Emergency Preparedness/
Evacuation for People with Disabilities*

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***In a very dramatic fashion,
recent events have reminded us
that a major segment of our
population have disabilities, and
we still have a great deal to do
to make sure these needs are
addressed to the maximum
extent possible...***

...and that many of the horrific events could have been mitigated by specific planning of planners, responders, service providers, advocates, and individuals with disabilities.







- *Identification difficult/ loss of records*
- *Medicaid access*
- *Medications*
- *Loss of durable medical equipment*
- *Agencies loss of consumers & staff*
- *Rejection from shelters*
- *Separation from care providers*
- *Supports provided by the disability community at large*

Definition of Vulnerable Populations

People who, because of their special needs, cannot shelter in place, evacuate, maintain or recover during and following a disaster without additional and often specialized assistance from others.

Definition of Special Needs from the National Response Framework (2008)

Individuals who before, during and after an incident May have additional needs in one or more of the following functional areas:

***maintaining independence,
communication,
transportation,
supervision, and
medical care***

including those:

who have disabilities

who live in institutionalized settings

who are elderly

who are from diverse cultures

who have limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking

who are children

who are transportation disadvantaged

What are the issues for people with disabilities and other special needs?

- *Communication*
- *Comprehension*
- *Emergency warning*
- *Assistance*
 - *Shelter in place*
 - *Evacuation*
 - *Support in Mass Care Shelters*
 - *Special Medical Shelters*
 - *Recovery*
- *Participation*

Issues for shelter in place

- *Many individuals will not be able to readily secure location (i.e. closing windows, taping, food and water storage)*
- *Some may have set living patterns and will not know where to go if it is different from routine*
- *Many have respiratory problems*

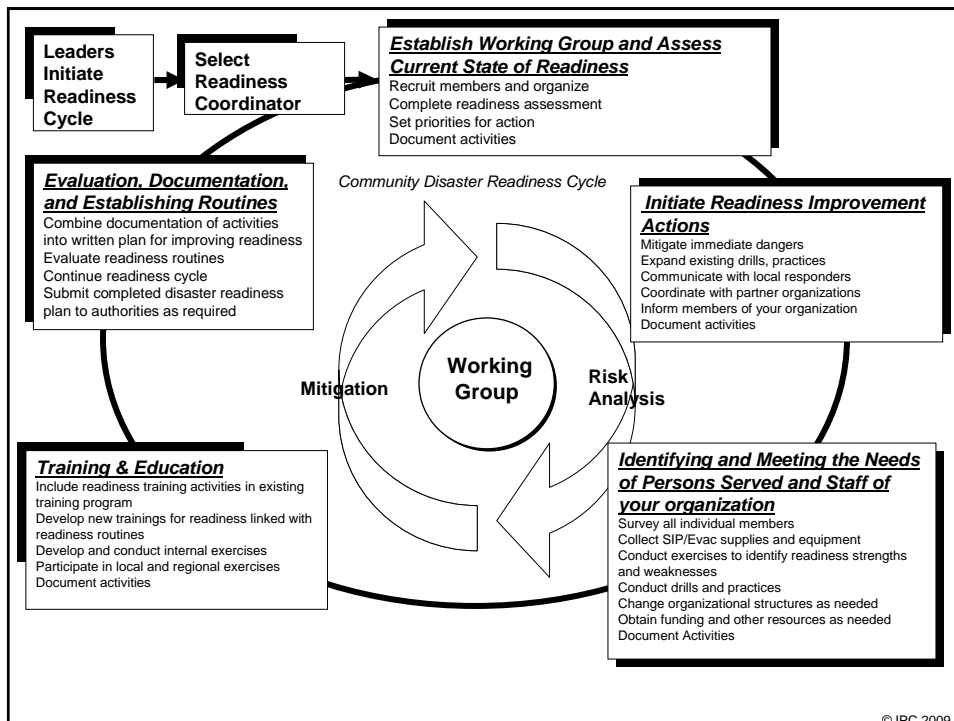
Issues for Evacuation

- ***Identify and transport critical care articles to be included with evacuee (equipment, medications, special diet materials, TTY, etc.)***
- ***Find appropriate transportation***
- ***Communicate what is going to happen and where you are going***

Planning for a Disaster by Service Provider and Advocacy Organizations

Readiness vs. Preparedness

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMMUNITY READINESS • Organizations • Routines • Action then Writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS • Emergency Professionals • Emergencies • Written Plan then Action |
|---|--|



***Establish Working Group and Assess
Current State of Readiness***

- Recruit working group members and organize
- Complete readiness assessment
- Set priorities for action
- Document activities

***Initiate Readiness
Improvement Action***

- Mitigate immediate dangers
- Expand existing drills, practice
- Communicate with local responders
- Coordinate with partner organizations
- Inform members of your own organization
- Document activities

Identifying and Meeting the Needs of Persons Served and Support Staff

- Survey all individual members
- Collect SIP/ evacuation supplies & equipment
- Conduct exercises to identify readiness strengths & weaknesses
- Conduct drills and practices
- Change organizational structures as needed
- Obtain funding and other resources as needed
- Document activities

Training & Education

- Include readiness training activities in existing training program
- Develop new trainings for readiness linked with readiness routines
- Develop and conduct internal exercises
- Participate in local and regional exercises
- Document activities

Evaluation, Documentation, and Establishing Routines

- Combine documentation of activities into written plan for improving readiness
- Evaluate readiness routines
- Continue readiness cycle
- Submit completed disaster readiness plan to authorities as required

NEXT STEPS

Develop a inclusive planning team..

Develop the planning using a planning template..

Communicate the plan to the communities...

Develop training and information sharing opportunities...

Develop inclusive exercises and drills...

Look for opportunities to cooperate with other jurisdictions...

What does IPC do?

- ***Training and Information***
- ***Research***
- ***Technical Assistance to States, localities
and organizations***
- ***Planning Templates***

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