

Preparation through education is much less costly than learning through tragedy.

-Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center



### Importance of Advanced Planning

- September 11, 2001
- Hurricane Katrina
- Hurricane Irene
- Tornadoes / Severe weather
- Flooding / Blizzards



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#### **FEMA Overview**

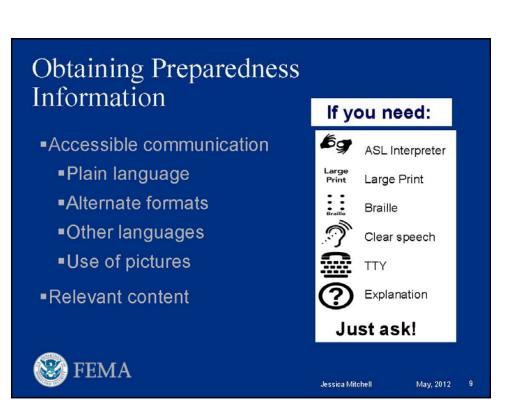
- 2010 Established the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination
- 2010-2011 Regional Disability Integration Specialists
- 2010-2011 Getting Real Inclusive Emergency Management conferences

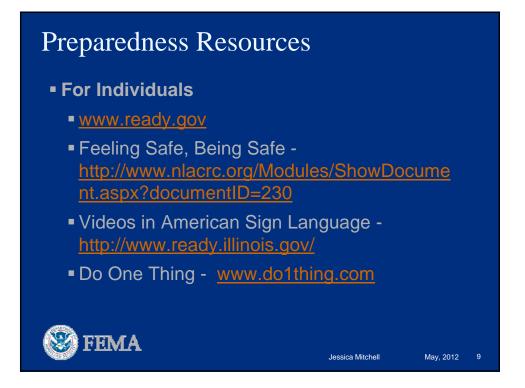
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- 2011 RDIS Disaster Deployments
- 2010 MOA with NCIL and NDRN

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#### Preparedness

- What agencies can do:
  - Provide accessible information
    - Alternate formats
    - Plain language
    - Pictures
  - Partnerships between emergency management and disability service providers
  - Have an agency emergency plan



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#### Planning

- What individuals can do:
  - Make an emergency plan
    - Communication
    - Evacuation
    - Support services
  - Have an emergency kit
    - Include low-tech alternatives to high-tech communication devices

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## Planning What agencies can do: Know the role you would play in your community during and after an emergency Have an accessible emergency plan for your employees and visitors Include people with disabilities in the planning process

Include people with disabilities in exercises



#### Planning

 Recruiting people with disabilities to participate in planning and exercise activities

- Centers for Independent Living
- Self-Advocacy groups
- Disability-specific groups
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Agency/group newsletters



#### **Receiving Alerts and Warnings**

- Weather radios
- Email alerts
- Text alerts
- Reverse 911 systems
- Smartphone applications
- Television, radio and internet sources



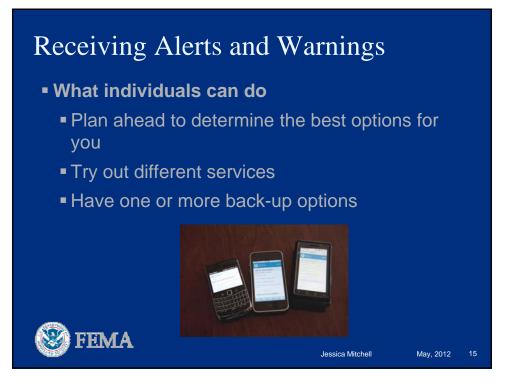


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#### Alerts and Warnings

- What agencies can do:
  - Pass along emergency information
  - Educate individuals on available resources
  - Talk to the media about accessibility
  - Provide a sign language interpreter for television broadcasts
  - Make sure reverse 911 systems can send messages to TTYs and by text

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#### Evacuation

- What individuals can do:
  - Know your transportation needs
  - Make a plan
  - Take equipment and service animals with you
  - Have backup options
  - Communicate with first responders



#### Evacuation

- What emergency managers can do:
  - Plan with public transportation providers
  - Plan with accessible transportation providers
  - Plan to transport equipment and service animals
  - How will individuals request assistance?
  - Registry considerations
    - Updated information



#### Evacuation

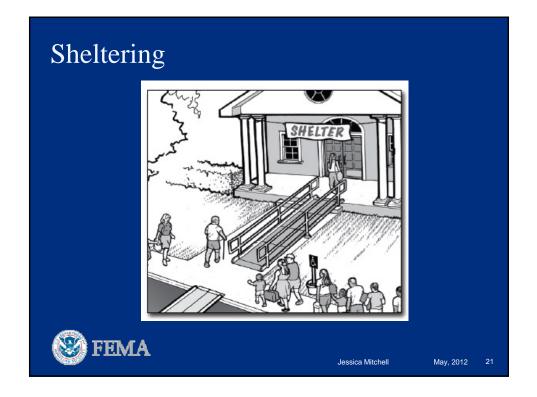
- What disability service agencies can do:
  - Coordinate disability specific resources
  - Disseminate information about evacuations
  - Health and safety checks
  - Work with emergency management



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#### Sheltering

- What individuals can do:
  - Plan in advance
  - Take DME, AT, and service animals with you
  - Utilize your support network
  - Plan for support services
  - Practice telling shelter workers what your needs are

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#### Sheltering

- What emergency managers can do:
  - Plan in advance
  - Review shelter sites
  - Communication within the shelter
  - Plan for power needs
  - Plan for dietary needs
  - Quiet space
  - Contracts and agreements for goods and services

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#### **Disaster Recovery**

- Returning to the community
  - Are services available?
  - Is transportation available?
  - Accessible housing
- Long Term Recovery Committees
- Accessible re-building projects





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