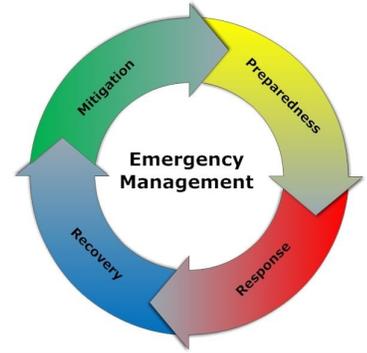


Summer 2019



CIEP ALERT

A Publication by the
COALITION ON INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY PLANNING
of the Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC)



FEMA REGION 10 COLLABORATION

On June 18, 2019 CIEP was present at the Oregon Inclusive Emergency Planning Conference in Salem, the state capitol. This conference was the a major milestone in establishing an inclusive emergency planning group similar to CIEP, and was well-attended by other stakeholders from state, county, and tribal emergency management agencies and community based organizations. Advocates in Oregon studied best practices in other states, including CIEP in Washington State, and decided to form their own coalition.



Other states in FEMA Region 10 include Idaho and Alaska, which encompasses the Pacific Northwest. Amid its natural beauty, common hazards that we experience year-round include winter storms and summer wildfires. At any moment, the region could be jarred by massive tremors emanating from the Cascadia Subduction zone off the coast of Oregon and Washington. In a July 13, 2015, New Yorker article, Kathryn Schultz wrote a dire prediction by Chris Goldfinger, a paleoseismologist from Oregon State University on the threat of a 9.2M earthquake saying "... everything west of I-5 will be toast!"

When such a massive disaster occurs, the impact will be felt region-wide. For example, survivors may decide to evacuate long distances to locations away from the disaster zone on the West Coast toward unaffected areas in eastern Washington or other states. The surge in refugees may overwhelm shelters, disaster recovery centers, and related services. Without proper planning, members of vulnerable populations may find themselves competing with others for scarce resources, and experience significant delays in returning to normalcy.

During Hurricane Katrina, it was found that approximately 70 percent of the people who did not evacuate from New Orleans before landfall either had a disability or were taking care of someone with a disability. Among the findings of the National Organization on Disability in its SNAKE (Special Needs Assessment of Katrina Evacuees) Report, two-thirds of those surveyed indicated they had questions regarding disability and aging needs in the intake/shelter registration process. However they expressed concerns that the Red Cross intake process only minimally identifies people with "special needs." Shelters claimed to have basic accessibility and supplies for people with mobility disabilities. The most underserved group were those who are deaf or heard of hearing.

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Less than 30% of shelters had access to American Sign Language interpreters, 80% did not have TTY's, and 60% did not have TVs with open caption capability. Only 56% of shelters had areas where oral announcements were posted so people who are deaf, hard of hearing or out of hearing range could go to a specified area to get or read the content of announcements. This meant that the deaf or hard of hearing had no access to the vital flow of information. The full report can be found at https://tap.gallaudet.edu/Emergency/Nov05Conference/EmergencyReports/katrina_snake_report.pdf

Following the enactment of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Post-Katrina Act), FEMA established the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) to lead the agency's efforts to promote inclusiveness in disaster planning, response, and recovery.

Up until about a year ago, ODIC has sent an army of about 50 or more disability experts into disaster zones to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable survivors of disasters. For more recent disasters in the past year, between five and ten experts were deployed for each disaster in the United States. Who picks up the slack? It falls on the states and local emergency management agencies to provide more support and meet access and functional needs in the areas of communications, medical, independence, safety and security, and transportation (C-MIST).



Houston Astrodome after Hurricane Katrina © 2005 FEMA

In recent years, a growing number of people with disabilities and people having other access and functional needs have stepped up and participated in inclusive emergency planning processes, not only at the Federal level, but also at the state and local levels. Many states throughout America have since restructured their emergency management plans to allow for more inclusive planning, which also consider the needs of other people who do not understand the English language, and those who cannot evacuate independently because they have no access to a car.

CIEP has always been a voice in inclusive emergency planning for Washington State by providing technical assistance to other state agencies and local jurisdictions. The scope of our comprehensive technical assistance revolves around the three pillars of access: Effective Communications, Programmatic Access, and Physical Access. Just like a three-legged footstool, if one pillar is not there, the other two pillars will not be able to function as intended.



Washington State Independent Living Council

ADVOCATE • EDUCATE • COLLABORATE

WASILC HOLDS FORUM WITH EMERGENCY MANAGERS

At the recent WASILC Quarterly Meeting in Vancouver last July, several local emergency managers engaged with the disability community to find ways for the two groups to work together in inclusive emergency planning.

On the panel were Danielle Bailey, Disability Integration Specialist for Region 10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Robin Albrandt, Regional Emergency Response Coordinator for Region 4 of Washington State under Clark County Health District; Scott Johnson, Emergency Management Division Manager for the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency; and Amy Eagon, Local Emergency Response

Coordinator for Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Department. The panel was moderated by Mark Leeper, a member of the WASILC Council.

The ninety-minute discussion covered a variety of topics where we all learned the realities of emergency management and vulnerable populations as part of the whole community. The panelists often mention that their biggest barrier was connecting to the right community leaders and sustaining partnerships that will help develop the right protocols that are effective before, during, and after disasters.

Emergency planning is not a “one-size-fits-all” proposition. Everyone has a unique set of access and functional needs and we need to be as resilient as we can during the first few days.

The most important lesson we can learn from this forum was that emergency management professionals need our experience and knowledge to help them develop inclusive plans that work for the whole community, including people with disabilities. Help them help you.

CIEP is a statewide advisory group that brings expertise and perspectives into disaster planning based on access and functional needs (AFN) faced by people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations in these areas: 1.) Effective communications, 2.) Programmatic Access, and 3.) Physical Access. We welcome any suggestions for future issues of the CIEP Alert quarterly newsletter. Past issues are available upon request.

Contact CIEP:

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RESOURCES FOR ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS:

√ FEMA Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1831-25045-7316/fnss_guidance.pdf

√ Check this off your Back-To-School list — Emergency Planning for Kids with Disabilities

http://www.abilityhacker.com/school-emergency-planning-for-kids-with-disabilities/?fbclid=IwAR0L_wrTzGfmBmluMISo-PHhb1FegSBbzMV9l6tlnu1h_kp18U9v7TqGE10

√ Disaster Apps for your Digital Go Bag

<https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/apps?fbclid=IwAR0SKkKwo-Js5G-PwY-3gaqpkvKrovqM7vAGtwwbyw1MwnKh2UUoZ9yJnk>

√ NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards—Emergency Warnings for People with Hearing Loss

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/shhh.html>

√ Register for the Great Washington ShakeOut

<https://www.shakeout.org/washington/>



Coming Events:

[CIEP Networking Meetings](#) Note: All meetings begin at 10:00am and end at 11:30am.

WHEN: 9/11/2019 **SAVE THE DATES:** 12/18/2019 3/18/2020 6/17/2020

WHERE: 4th Floor in DVR HQ at 4565 7th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503

Join this meeting online at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/460983877>.

Or dial in at 571-317-3122 - Access Code: 460-983-877

[Washington State Independent Living Council \(WASILC\) Quarterly Meetings](#)

Two-day meeting: Day #1: 9:00am - 4:00pm Day #2: 9:00am - 2:00pm

WHEN & WHERE 10/3-4/2019—Wenatchee

During each WASILC Quarterly Meeting, a panel discussion and public forum will be held to gather information and advice from the local disability community, consumers, service providers, and the public to identify what is working in their area, as well as identify gaps and barriers. Call Jolie at 360.725.3693 for more information.

All CIEP Networking Meetings and WASILC Quarterly Meetings are open to everyone, and fragrance-free. ASL interpreters and CART are provided. For other reasonable accommodation requests, please contact Jim House at HouseJ@dshs.wa.gov at least two weeks prior to the meeting to ensure availability.