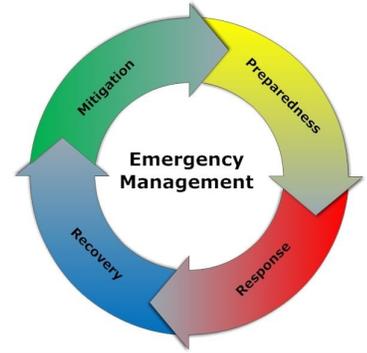




CIEP ALERT

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



2019 SNOWMAGEDDON LESSONS LEARNED

During February 2019, Seattle experienced a wave of snowstorms that shattered historical records. Residents hunkered down as snowfall blanketed the landscape. For a metropolitan area that often goes through a winter without significant storms in the last several years, this blizzard left many of the city’s residents struggling to navigate slippery streets and sidewalks, particularly in hilly areas like downtown and many urban neighborhoods.

As we have noted during extreme weather events and other disasters, people with disabilities and other access and functional needs suffer a disproportionate impact on their daily routines. Below is a summary of how they were impacted, some best practices, and recommendations for the next big snowstorm.

Most obviously, those with mobility issues and balance problems face greater challenges in getting around once they leave the warmth and comfort of their homes. Icy sidewalks lead to frozen mounds across ADA curb cuts and parking spaces from snowplows that create an insurmountable obstacle course. This prevents wheelchair users and others using walkers and crutches from reaching their destinations such as their workplaces or medical facilities.

As you can see in the cartoon on the right, a group of seven children were watching a janitor as he was clearing the snow away from an entrance to a school building. There are four steps up with a wheelchair ramp on the side. A kid in a wheelchair asks the janitor, “Could you please shovel the ramp?” The janitor replies, “All these other kids are waiting to use the stairs. When I get through shoveling them off, then I will clear the ramp for you.” To which the kid replied, “But if you shovel the ramp, we can all get in.”



The cartoon illustrates an ongoing reality where snow cleanup efforts work under the misconception that it is OK to do the ADA ramps or parking spaces later. But as many of us know

from experience with curb cuts, everyone loves them until they are rendered impassable from being covered by snowplows. Public transportation routes are usually scaled back to serve major routes that avoid hills and other areas likely to cause major delays.

To address some of the most pressing transportation barriers adversely affecting health and the quality of life of people with disabilities and medical conditions during snowstorms or in the aftermath of a major disaster, transportation providers and emergency managers have partnered with Community Transportation Association of the Northwest (CTANW). One of CTANW's goals is to increase the critical transportation services available to populations with access and functional needs. See www.ctanw.org

In Puget Sound, local emergency management agencies work with the Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation (RARET), provided by [Hopelink](#). In the event of an emergency and resources are diminished, RARET coordinates life sustaining medical transportation for patients in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Life sustaining medical transportation includes trips for doctor appointments, kidney dialysis, chemotherapy, and other medical activities that must continue for older adults and people with disabilities. The RARET workgroup is composed of emergency managers, transportation providers, human service agencies, and community advocates in and around Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett. Copies of RARET's *February 2019 King County Snow Event—After Action Report* can be downloaded [here](#).

These tips below can help you make Washington State a safer place this winter during inclement weather.



BEFORE:

- Take a CERT training or other class to help you be better prepared in an emergency. Check with your local fire department, emergency management group for classes.
- Buy snow shovels, snow blowers and other supplies now before the storm hits.
- If you rely on electrical power for oxygen, or home dialysis, invest in a generator or develop a plan to go somewhere with reliable electricity during a power outage.
- Be sure to have a 14-day emergency kit for sheltering-in-place at your home, plus a 3-day go-kit if you need to evacuate. Build extra kits for your vehicle and/or workplace.
- Instead of buying an expensive kit, you may want to build your own kit with food and camping supplies that you may find around your home and add more each month.
- Talk with your neighbors and get to know them. They may have what you need.

DURING:

- Keep your mobile devices charged with solar/hand crank chargers, or battery packs.
- Clear an accessible path of travel on sidewalks in front of your home and business as soon as the storm stops. Do not block curb cuts and ADA parking spots.

Stay warm! For more useful info, Google "[winter weather tips for people with disabilities](#)"



CIEP JOINS WITH REDMOND IN CASCADIA RISING EXERCISE

During a scheduled Cascadia Rising simulation in Redmond last October 18-19, Jim House participated in the exercise.

On Friday, Jim was a survivor rescued from the “rubble” after the Cascadia 9.2M mega-earthquake with a serious broken arm and bones exposed through the skin. He could not sign nor write fluently. One of the firefighters at the station knew signs and even understood him when he had to sign clumsily with his left hand.

Later during a media briefing, Jim pointed out some access and functional needs tips about texting to 911, and that unlike pets,

service animals were allowed in shelters. No deaf interpreters were available, to provide access for ASL viewers.

On Saturday, Jim was working with the Field Innovation Technology Team and it was fun! He helped develop a “mock” video using drones and “mesh networks” to help recruit volunteers for the Redmond Rises long term disaster recovery group. A great concept, and we look forward to it becoming a reality!

Kudos to the Redmond Emergency Management program for its commitment to the whole community.

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.

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ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS (AFN) RESOURCES

√ Get an Accessible Smoke Alarm from the American Red Cross

<https://getasmokealarm.org/?fbclid=IwAR1CY5Kfp92oMyItLYAyCu4Duly6SITPdFJCDrqkxk1BYBL7dsA4XESMxXo>

√ 2 Weeks Ready Earthquake Kits

https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness?fbclid=IwAR2faizF_zHU3PzuxbNxc_SLguyLjD-eLDgqq9FK2Wswr-soySINBDhaHMs

√ Disaster Safety for People with Disabilities

https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/disaster-safety-for-people-with-disabilities.html?fbclid=IwAR3U1znun3mXLY3E3gZfjBnX6zWKEYvnbTY-DiMrc_pBdpMoldnauXklRwY

√ FEMA Accessible: CDC Receiving Dialysis During an Emergency (ASL/CC)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIIUlnud_9M&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1jo-beFgoLMmehyQcF5QydZYzIaN7Di0dv8-RvSinxkV-DPFJqPhGXRUE

√ CISA.gov National Emergency Communications Plan

<https://www.cisa.gov/necp?fbclid=IwAR3MFdHyFhys4kcVB36UfjQ9fvmAj5lrxkro68pFHNTLwY04Wii0jLZnIsE>

√ WA DNR Tsunami Evacuation Walk Time Maps

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/geology/geologic-hazards/tsunamis?fbclid=IwAR3s2mD5FubcZ3Vt09k2ej_tbrEy8X9CJdLZqkCWTxTJOPgm_6GDP_MhMFI#preparation-and-evacuation.6

√ National Weather Service—Severe Weather (ASL/CC)

https://www.weather.gov/bmx/asl?fbclid=IwAR0De3eWkkbzI_wk0nQCRk_OcXuFDrtT5BNIs-8qsoqdpCyR-KuO2RJfXwQ

Coming Events:

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

WHEN: 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 Quarterly Meetings](#)

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

WHEN/WHERE: 1/21-22/2020—Olympia and 4/2-3/2020—Seattle



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 highlight 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 if possible prior to the meeting to ensure availability.