

CIEP After Action Report – 2020 Fire Season Recap

October 2, 2020

- By Jim House, Disability Integration Manager for the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning
- Report Date Range: 7/29-9/21/2020
- CIEP Stakeholder Cadre:
 - WASILC/CIEP: Jim House, Kim Conner
 - FEMA, Region 10: Danielle Bailey
 - EMD: Lewis Lujan
 - American Red Cross: Lisa Kraft, Margaret Smith
 - Center for Independence (CFI): Todd Holloway, Alex Hatcher
 - Central Washington Disability Resources (CWDR): Joshua Hackney
 - DSHS: David Shannon
 - Department on Veteran Affairs: Crystal Hauck
- Partners:
 - World Institute on Disability: Marcie Roth
 - Partners in Disaster Strategies: Germán Parodi, Shaylin Sluzalis
 - Aging and Adult Care of CW: Diane Tribble
 - King County Public Health: Traci Adair
 - WA Assn on Area Agencies on Aging: Rebecca Holmes
- Mission:
 - Monitor for unmet Access and Functional Needs before, during, and after disasters
- Incidents and Timeline:
 - Anglin Fire 7/29/20 – reached out to David Shannon (DSHS), Dianne Tribble (AL TSA), and Maurice Goodall (Okanogan Co. EM) letting them know of CIEP’s availability. Small cadre of CIEP Stakeholders with interest in Okanogan County was formed.
 - CIEP Standup Statewide **Level 1** 8/5/2020 following Anglin Fire
 - Evans Canyon Fire – Yakima, Yakima County – 9/3/2020
 - Red Cross team mobilized.
 - Level 3 evacuations
 - No AFN requests
 - CIEP Standup Statewide **Level 2** 9/8/2020 – High wind and multiple fires throughout Washington (and Oregon) on Labor Day weekend – sent notice statewide to all stakeholders due to increased scope of wildfires and high winds.
 - Received Inquiry about LEP efforts in emergency notifications from Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA) - referred to emergency management.
 - CIEP Standup Statewide **Level 3** 9/10/2020

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- Okanogan Fire – Brewster, Okanogan County – 9/9/2020
 - *A male client (aged 70's) in a noncongregate shelter (motel) in Brewster, WA needs help with activities of daily living. He has been living in a house alone next to a house occupied by his sister and her husband. Both houses burned, so the sister is trying to make plans for leaving the shelter. The client has some dementia and may be a prospect for assisted living. The sister is seeking consultation about her brother.*
 - Joshua Hackney (CWDR) and Margaret Smith (Red Cross) contacted the sister. Found temporary placement for both
 - Working on long-term solutions for independent skills training and housing
 - Homeless woman with disability checked into Red Cross shelter in Spokane seeking housing – 9/11/2020
 - Red Cross inquiry seeking a list of hotels with ADA rooms. ADA guidelines require all hotels to have a certain number of ADA rooms in proportion of total units.* 9/11/2020
 - CIEP Standup Statewide **Level 2** 9/11/2020
 - Air quality index shows Unhealthy or hazardous air quality for next few days. 9/14/2020
 - Red Cross reported that an 87 year-old veteran with dementia lost his home in a fire in Snohomish County. CIEP connected the client with CFI and the Washington Department of Veteran Affairs. 9/16/2020
 - A homeless female with a disability reached out for housing assistance in North Sound area. CIEP connected her with resources at CFI. 9/16/2020
 - CIEP Standup Statewide **Level 1** 9/21/2020 – Air quality index shows big improvement
 - Red Cross reported a need for a wheelchair for a nine-year old boy with Cerebral Palsy from Oregon. He and his family were traveling through Washington when their car caught on fire and was left behind in a parking lot. CIEP connected with regional resources and is working on immediate and long-term solutions. 9/27/2020
 - Strengths:
 - Statewide call-up of all CIEP Stakeholders provided multiple resources and leads
 - Immediate Red Cross presence with ADA room in hotel and DME replacement plus remote sign language interpreters and foreign language translation services.
 - 9-1-1 system transitioning to Next Generation 911 with new counties offering Text-to-911. Currently 20 out of 39 counties offer this service, an interim first step in NG911 roll-out.
 - Rural broadband internet connectivity increasing in Washington State with the addition of Drive-in Hotspots Location Finder supported by Department of Commerce
 - Weaknesses:
 - Developing immediate sources for situational awareness. (See resources below)
 - Unknown if telephone numbers for information is accessible through texting
 - Information on fire status, shelter status, air quality status are found on several websites
 - Rural areas vulnerable to interruptions in communication networks
 - Received several leads from private businesses seeking opportunities from our work.

- Recommendations:
 - CIEP on alert Level 1 (advisory) and Level 2 (watch) throughout the entire fire season and elevate to Level 3 (action) as wildfire incidents warrant.
 - Recruit more state agencies (AAA, DSHS, and AL TSA) as well as LEP, BIPOC, Aging, and other marginalized community organizations into CIEP for situational awareness across different emergency support functions during future incidents
 - Subscribe to Situation Reports issued by EMD and other state agencies.
 - ODHH suggests that CIEP news be distributed on Gov.Delivery network
- Resources for Situational Awareness:
 - Department of Natural Resources Wildfire page
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Wildfires>
 - Department of Ecology – Emergency Planning Committees
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Reporting-requirements/Emergency-Planning-Community-Right-to-Know-Act/Local-Emergency-Planning-Committees#o>
 - Northwest Interagency Coordination Page
<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/>
 - National Wildfire Coordinating Group – After Action Reports
<https://www.nwccg.gov/wfldp/toolbox/aars>
- Other Resources
 - *For noncongregate shelters, the ADA Accessibility Guidelines spells out physical building requirements for places of public accommodations. <https://www.access-board.gov/attachments/article/1350/adaag.pdf> - pages 71-75: Accessible Transient Lodging.