FEMA TO AID CIEP IN STAND-UP PROTOCOL REVIEW

The Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) has been selected as one recipient of FEMA’s National Exercise Program (NEP)’s Technical Support grant. In its application, CIEP submitted its General Protocols for CIEP Stand-up in preparation for the upcoming Cascadia Rising exercises in June 2022. The goal of this plan review is to improve CIEP’s coordination with the Emergency Management Division (EMD), and the ability to activate with our stakeholder partners in the disability community during a catastrophic event such as a major earthquake with a strong likelihood of a tsunami and numerous landslides.

The standup protocol generally spells out how CIEP is activated in response to disasters when there are gaps in Access and Functional Needs for people with disabilities and other at-risk population groups. During the wildfires and other extreme weather events since 2020, CIEP responded to many requests from the American Red Cross, Department of Health (DOH), and other partners where survivors needed replacement Durable Medical Equipment (DMEs) such as wheelchairs, walkers, and also housing. CIEP then summons its stakeholders, including nearby agencies and the Central Washington Disability Resources in Ellensburg, the nearest Center for Independent Living (CIL).

During the response to atmospheric river flooding events in November 2021 and January 2022, CIEP joined in the daily ESF #6 (Mass Care) coordination calls hosted by the WA Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (WAVOAD), and supported by EMD along with the Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS). Todd Holloway and I captured a few AFN gaps such as no ADA showers in one shelter. With our help, this AFN gap was resolved quickly. This raised the question of how CIEP can engage better with its partners, improve its situational awareness, and be able to scale up or down depending on the severity of the disaster.

In its Disaster Declaration, FEMA has designated the 2021 Thanksgiving week flooding in Clallam, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties including tribal lands as DR4635. This designation brings in an influx of federal dollars as Public Assistance (Infrastructure Repair) and Individual Assistance (Disaster Survivor Benefits). The benefits help individuals and local governments in the impacted communities respond and recover from disasters.
Prepare for Cold Weather

Adapted from Winter (weather.gov)  En Espanol

The best way to avoid frostbite and hypothermia is to plan for extreme cold before it arrives. Don't get caught unprepared. Winter storms can bring snow, sleet, and freezing rain across the entire United States and its territories. Even Hawaii gets snow in its Big Island, and major cities as far south as Atlanta and Dallas have been paralyzed by snow and ice. Blizzards occur when strong wind causes blowing snow and whiteout conditions, making roads impassable. Thousands of people are injured or killed every year in traffic accidents related to slippery roads from winter storms.

This resource is designed to teach you how to stay safe before, during and after a winter storm. You will find information on winter alerts, science and hazards, snow coverage maps, and information describing the different types of winter storms. If you or someone you know has been a victim of a winter storm, please share your story so we can prevent others from becoming a victim. When you write, please note that the NWS has permission to use your story and, if possible, let us know the town and state you were in and the year the event took place. Read about winter weather survivors.

Winter Safety Information Graphics
Weather Prediction Center Winter Weather Forecasts
NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards
NOAA Snow and Ice Information (Interactive Snow Info | Snowfall Analysis)
Weather Safety Materials for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

- Check the Forecast at weather.gov or your favorite weather app, station, etc.: Make checking the forecast part of your regular routine so you'll know when to expect cold weather.
- Adjust Your Schedule: If possible, adjust your schedule to avoid being outside during the coldest part of the day, typically the early morning. Try to find a warm spot for your children while waiting for the school bus outside.
- Protect Your Pets, Livestock and other Property: If you have pets or farm animals, make sure they have plenty of food and water, and are not overly exposed to extreme cold. Take precautions to ensure your water pipes do not freeze. Know the temperature thresholds of your plants and crops.
- Fill up the tank: Make sure your car or vehicle has at least a half a tank of gas during extreme cold situations so that you can stay warm if you become stranded.
- Dress for the outdoors even if you don't think you'll be out much.

Update Your Winter Car Survival Kit: Make sure your car survival kit has the following:
- AFN equipment: If you have a family member with access and functional needs, pack extra equipment and batteries
- Food: Stock non-perishable food such as canned food and a can opener, dry cereal and protein rich foods like nuts and energy bars
- Flashlights: Replace the batteries before the winter season starts and pack some extras
- Water: Have at least 1 gallon of water per person and per pet each day for at least 3 days
- First Aid Kit: Also bring essential medications
- Jumper cables: flares or reflective triangle are great extras
- Tire chains: Unless you have a 4WD or an all-wheel drive vehicle
- Baby gear: If you have a baby, pack diapers, food, and formula
- Basic toolkit: Pliers, wrench, screwdriver
- Pet supplies: Food and water
- Radio: Battery or hand cranked
- Cat litter or sand: For better tire traction
- Shovel: To dig out from snow
- Ice scraper: Even if you park in a garage, have one in the car.
- Warmers: Pack extra for body, hands, feet
- Blankets or sleeping bags: If you get stranded in traffic on a lonely road, you'll be glad to have it.
- Charged Cell Phone: Keep a spare charger in your car as well
The NEP is a two-year cycle of exercises across the nation that examine and validate capabilities in all preparedness mission areas. Each cycle is guided by Principals’ Strategic Priorities, established by the Principals Committee of the National Security Council and informed by preparedness data from jurisdictions across the nation. FEMA’s National Exercise Division administers the NEP on behalf of the federal government, facilitating the design, coordination, conduct, evaluation and analysis of NEP exercises. The NEP accepts requests for exercise support twice a year from state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions. Support requests are only reviewed after the submission deadline. In addition to EMD, our other partners in FEMA Region 10 include Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Idaho Office of Emergency Management, and Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management. For more information, go to https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises/about

As mentioned previously in CIEP ALERT, there has been greater attention on Access and Functional Needs (AFN) at DOH and EMD. CIEP is grateful that more lives can be saved during future disasters in Washington State.

More Cold Weather Resources:

- Cold Weather :: Washington State Department of Health
- Winter driving tips | WSDOT
- http://www.mobilitycorner.com/let-it-snow.html
- http://www.accessibleemergencyinfo.com/
- How to Survive Seattle's Cold, Dark Months | Right as Rain by UW Medicine
WASILC Solidarity Statement

The Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) stands in solidarity with the Black Community and all Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We fully support the Black Lives Matter movement and condemn systemic racism, oppression, and injustice. Achieving our mission requires us to educate and advocate for systemic changes for all people with disabilities, which includes the intersectionality of race and disability. We recommit to this vital work and will hold ourselves accountable to become better allies. We know we cannot elevate the disability community without elevating the BIPOC communities we serve.

About CIEP

CIEP is a statewide advisory group that brings expertise into disaster planning based on access and functional needs (AFN) faced by people with disabilities in three areas: 1) Effective communications, 2) Programmatic Access, and 3) Physical Access. We welcome any suggestions for future issues of the quarterly CIEP ALERT newsletter. Past issues since 2018 are available at https://www.wasilc.org/newsletter.

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Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP)
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COMING EVENTS

CIEP Stakeholder Calls (Response to COVID-19 and other Disasters)
WHEN: Monthly on first Wednesday at 10:00-11:00 am.
WHERE: Email Jim.House@dshs.wa.gov for details.
Note: Here is the UPDATED Zoom link through June of 2022.

Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) Quarterly Meetings
WHEN: Thursday, April 14, 2022 10am - 3pm
WHERE: Zoom — Email WASILC@dshs.wa.gov or call 360.725.3693 for more information.
Note: Due to the status of WASILC’s COVID-19 ongoing response, this Quarterly Meeting will be held virtually. The finalized meeting agenda will be announced soon.

All CIEP Stakeholder Calls and WASILC Quarterly Meetings are virtual until further notice and open to everyone. ASL interpreters and CART will be provided. For other reasonable accommodation requests, please email us as early as possible prior to the meeting to ensure availability.