

Texas Disability Task Force

on

Emergency Management



Texas Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Disability Task Force on Emergency Management

- Convened in late 2011
- Purpose: To provide input to Texas emergency management community that would assist in enhancing state and local emergency management planning, plans, and response.
- Representatives include:
 - Disability related Organizations
 - State Agencies
 - Local Governments



Task Force Organization

- Texas Independent Living Centers
- Mayors Committees on People with Disabilities
- Texas Association of the Deaf
- Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Texas Council of Community Centers
- Texas Council on Autism & Pervasive Developmental Disorders
- Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
- National Federation of the Blind of Texas
- Texas Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Texas Deaf Blind Multi-Handicapped Association
- Texas Chapter for the American Foundation for the Blind
- Texas Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America
- Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services (DADS)
- American Red Cross



Task Force Organization

- Texas Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
- FEMA Disability Integration Coordinator Region VI
- Dr. Lex Frieden, Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Texas Association of Regional Councils
- Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
- University of Texas, Center for Disability Studies
- Texas Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management
- City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management
- City of San Antonio Office of Emergency Management
- Texas A & M University, Center on Disability Development
- City of Austin Health Department



Disability Task Force on Emergency Management

- Chair
Russell Cook, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
- Vice-Chair
Danielle Hesse, Texas Department of State Health Services
- Facilitator
Dede Powell, Texas Division of Emergency Management



Disability Task Force on Emergency Management

- Currently includes three Sub-Committees
 - Disability Outreach and Effective Communication
 - Training
 - Planning



Disability Outreach and Effective Communications Sub-Committee

Purpose

Provide guidance, technical assistance and resources on effective outreach and communication for emergency managers, citizens with disabilities and those with access and functional needs in disasters.

Chair: Keri Cain, Texas Department of State Health Services



Accomplishments

- Identified Best Practices and put together a report, “*Promising Practices for the Whole Community: Presentation Summaries.*”
http://gov.texas.gov/disabilities/promising_practices_emergency_mgmt
- Worked with the Texas Department of State Health Services website staff to improve the accessibility of the TexasPrepares.org website.
- Developed and disseminated the Neighborhood Hero’s Community Press Kit Templates that could be personalized to the local entity regarding the disaster topics: Wildfires, Tornados, Hurricanes, Flu, Floods, and Extreme Heat



Accomplishments

- Centers for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Conducted three exercises of Emergency Notification Systems' ability to provide warning via TTY and Relay Services
- Developed and published the Texas Effective Communication Toolkit (www.preparingtexas.org/preparedness)



Current / Future Goals

- Development of a Disability Virtual Operations Support Team
- Development of Feeling Safe/Being Safe program for Texas
- Development of a Formal Outreach Network to quickly reach organizations that serve persons with disabilities
- Continued enhancement of State of Texas video library for persons with disabilities



Effective Communications Toolkit

Download the [Toolkit](#):

<https://www.preparingtexas.org/preparedness.aspx?page=df9e78fc-3f14-4c6c-aad8-7a2b90c425ef>



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Objectives

- Offer a promising practices model for replication in other jurisdictions.
- Identify resources that contribute to effective communications.
- Identify strategies for ensuring that emergency communications meet the needs of the whole community, including those with access and functional needs.



Toolkit Purpose

- To ensure emergency communications services and equipment address functional and access needs.
- Provide guidance for creating emergency management materials in accessible formats.
- Understand how to plan for the delivery of auxiliary aids and services.
- Identify disability leaders in the local community.



Who is this toolkit for?

Emergency management and public information professionals who provide warnings and notifications, to media and the public.



Who else benefits?

Shelter managers and first responders will benefit from face-to-face operational communication tools.



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Toolkit Development

Toolkit development required input from Texas state agencies, local jurisdictions and representatives from the disability community.



Key Partners

- State vocational rehabilitation
- Deaf and hard of hearing specialists
- Accessibility specialists
- Public information / communications SMES
- Disability stakeholders



Examples of Toolkit Guidance

- High tech, low tech and no tech solutions
- Web accessibility resources
- Plain language communication techniques
- Relay Service descriptions
- Video Remote Interpreting providers and hardware/software specifications
- News conference ASL interpreter guidance



Other Resources

- Links to practical tools for communicating using “People First” or “Respectful Language” techniques
- Strategies for Community Meetings
 - **Interpreters (sign and/or oral)**
 - **CART** (Communication Access Real-time Transcription)



Media Broadcasts

- Live Broadcast Briefings by Emergency Managers to the Public with real-time captioning
- Sign language interpreter within the camera frame
- Describe visual information for listeners who are blind or have low vision.



Multi-Modal Warnings and Notification

VOICE-CALLS
TRADITIONAL-MEDIA
MASS-WARNING-SYSTEMS
EMERGENCY-ALERT-SYSTEMS
SMART-PHONES
NEIGHBORS
FORMAL
DOOR-TO-DOOR
FACEBOOK
TEXT
APPS
TELEVISION
FAMILY
SOCIAL-MEDIA
TWITTER
INFORMAL
WEATHER-RADIOS
SIRENS
IPAWS
RADIO



Questions?

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People with Disabilities

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