



## Rolling Perspective

*News from the Office of Access and Functional Needs*

July 2016

Issue 3

### Introduction

Welcome to *Rolling Perspective*, the quarterly newsletter by the Office of Access and Functional Needs aimed at keeping you informed and up to date on the great work our office does! Rolling Perspective highlights our efforts to integrate access and functional needs (AFN) within the State's emergency planning systems. In this issue, we focus on *Outreach*: engaging in dialogues with emergency managers and stakeholders to discuss integration, whole community planning and disaster response. Join us for the ride as we share our work with you!



*Vance Taylor presenting to audience about AFN integration into emergency planning*

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## 2015 Outstanding Leadership Award



*Frances Viramontes, Acting Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health – Emergency Preparedness Office, Vance Taylor, and William (Bill) Hartley, Acting Chief, California Emergency Medical Services Authority – Disaster Medical Services Division*

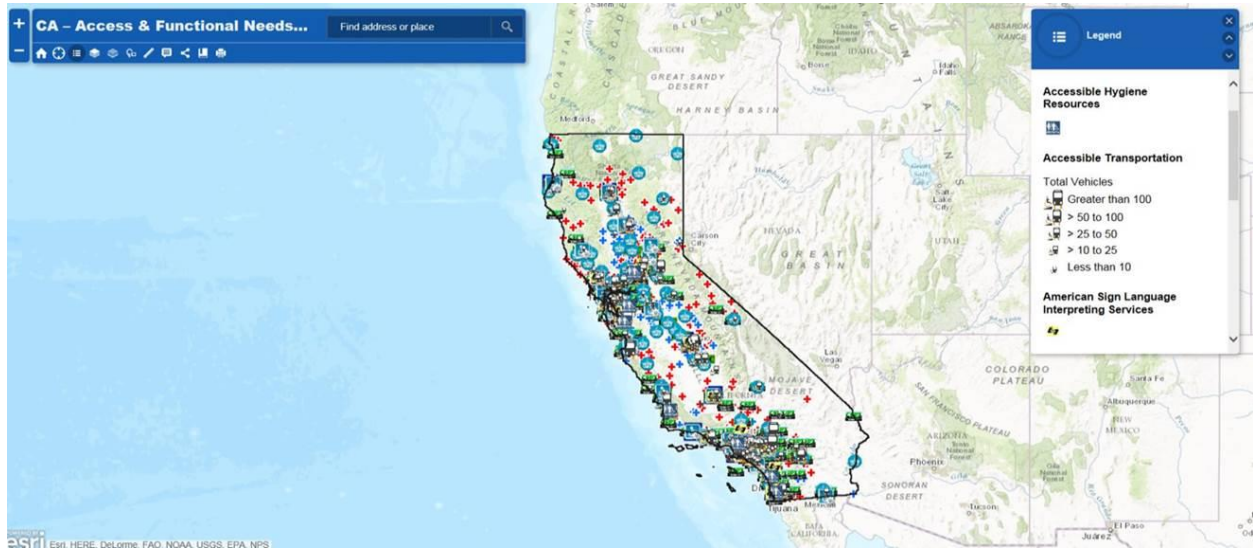
On June 28, 2016, the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) presented Vance Taylor with the 2015 Outstanding Leadership Award. Vance received the award due to his leadership efforts to serve individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs during the Butte and Valley fires.

As said by Vance, “This is a team effort so receiving this award from our partners means a great deal to me. The award underscores the importance and impact of the work we did together. And though my office had the privilege of being the tip of the spear so to speak, the success we achieved for the AFN community came as a direct result of the collaboration and commitment shown by everyone at Cal OES and our federal, state, local government and nonprofit partners.” The criteria for the Outstanding Leadership award were as follows:

- Significant contributions and service to public health/medical emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;
- Strong advocate of public health/medical practices in the emergency management field;
- Motivates and mentors others in public health/medical emergency response and emergency management; and
- Develops future leaders in public health/emergency management.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the whole community for bestowing this tremendous upon our office and the agency.

## OAFN Launches New Web Map Tool



All survivors need resources and assets. Cots, bathrooms, showers – these items are standard and present in all sanctioned shelters. But for emergency managers trying to provide survivors who have a disability or an access and functional need (AFN) with the specialized resources they need to maintain their health and independence in an emergency environment; the task of identifying and locating accessible resources and assets can be a difficult, time-consuming challenge.

To empower emergency managers, and help ensure that AFN-related assets and resources can be identified, located and secured using a more efficient process, the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) partnered with the GIS Division to create the [California Access and Functional Needs Web Map](#) – the first-ever definitive, comprehensive, statewide resource for access and functional needs-related assets and resources in California.

The web map provides emergency managers with AFN-centric data for every county in the state. It outlines total population, the percent of individuals with a disability (broken out by type), ethnicity, language spoken at home and age (broken out incrementally) for all 58 counties.

It identifies vendors and providers of accessible showers, porta potties and hand washing stations. It details accessible transportation providers throughout the state, highlights translation and interpreting agencies and lists every Independent Living Center in California.

Using the web map, emergency managers can determine which AFN populations are being (or will potentially be) impacted by a given disaster. Understanding what the AFN needs are ahead

of time and knowing where/how to locate specific assets and resources (often before they're needed) fundamentally changes the way we respond to disasters.

The web map empowers us to ensure there is accessible transportation to get people to and from shelters; it enables us to increase the likelihood that people will have translators and interpreters to meet their communication needs; and it will facilitate having assets like accessible showers ready when survivors arrive at shelters.

OAFN launched the web map during a webinar on June 9, 2016 in partnership with the [Pacific ADA Center](#) as part of their National Network Webinar Series: Emergency Management and Preparedness-Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. Emergency managers and planners nationwide attended the webinar. Following the webinar, participants shared how they will make changes in the way they perform their work based upon the information presented on the AFN web map:

*"This will be a very helpful tool that I can use during activations and during the planning process."*

*"I'll bear the webmap in mind during future emergency operations. I'll also recommend it as a model for other resource-access projects. And I'll hold it up as an outstanding practical application of GIS technology."*

*"I am a Red Cross Health Services volunteer and I will use the Web Mapping to locate supplies and services I do not have on hand."*



*Vance Taylor, Chief and LaCandice McCray, Program Manager participating in Pacific ADA Center webinar*

The web map is free, it's available to the public and it's open source.

As it exists today, the web map is populated with the resources and assets that we know about. But, understanding that we don't know of every asset in the state, we're asking our local partners to tell us about their assets/resources by completing the following [simple form](#) and emailing it to us. Once they do, we'll upload the information to the web map for all to use!

So, come with us on this journey. Use the web map. Go from being reactionary to becoming more strategic and methodical in advancing the AFN mission!

## Outreach and Partnership Development

The strength of our office lies in our partnerships. Over the past few months, OAFN continues to remain in the community meeting with state partners, local emergency managers, AFN workgroups and stakeholders throughout California. Forming relationships with our partners in the field continues to be a delight!

Highlights from our outreach efforts this quarter include: speaking engagements at the [National Earthquake Conference](#), [Ability Tools Reuse Conference](#), [Walk MS: Sacramento 2016](#), [American Red Cross volunteer training](#) and [faith-based community meeting](#). We also visited our [Cal OES](#)



[regional partners](#), met with stakeholders to develop the AFN Active Shooter guidance, and responded to the Erskine fire in Kern County.

*Photo collages of outreach efforts*

## OAFN Staff Spotlight: “Meet our Staff Services Analyst”



*Linell Walker*

Linell Walker is the Staff Services Analyst of the Office and Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) at the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). He is responsible for assisting with training & outreach, administrative processes, and supporting emergency response and recovery operations.

Born and raised in Sacramento, Linell began his civil service career with the Department of Rehabilitation. He joined Cal OES in 2010 as a Support Services Assistant to the former OAFN Chief, Richard Devylder. For over three years Linell worked side by side with Richard as they traversed California empowering emergency managers to integrate access and functional needs within their planning processes.

Linell is an avid sports enthusiast and may be the biggest Oakland Raiders fan in the history of Cal OES. When he’s not cheering for the Silver and Black, he’s rooting for the Oakland A’s.

Linell is the father of two wonderful children, son Malachi and daughter Genesis. Linell lives in Sacramento.

## Personal Preparedness: The Role of Government vs. The Role of the Individual



*Vance Taylor, Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs*

In the realm of emergency management and preparedness, the question is often asked about the role of government vs. the role of the individual. The truth is, we need both. But the reality is; we encourage people to rely more on the latter than the former.

From the government perspective, the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) exists to ensure that access and functional needs (AFN) are included within every facet of California's emergency management system. We work to ensure that integration occurs within operations, logistics, planning, response and recovery. We include AFN within the State Emergency Plan, the Disaster Recovery Framework, the Flood plan, the catastrophic earthquake guidance, exercises and any other document, guidance, plan or tabletop being developed..

But there's another side to the emergency management coin; personal preparedness.

No amount of government planning can ever fully meet the personal and unique circumstances of any one individual. This is particularly true for individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs.

Individuals with access and functional needs have considerations they need to plan for that their non-disabled counterparts don't, such as accessible transportation. Individuals with mobility difficulties can't just hop into any car or truck to evacuate during emergencies; they need accessible transportation, which might need to be a specialized vehicle with a ramp or a lift that can accommodate a wheelchair. There may be mobility devices, assistive technologies or durable medical equipment that people need to take with them; all of which require proper planning.

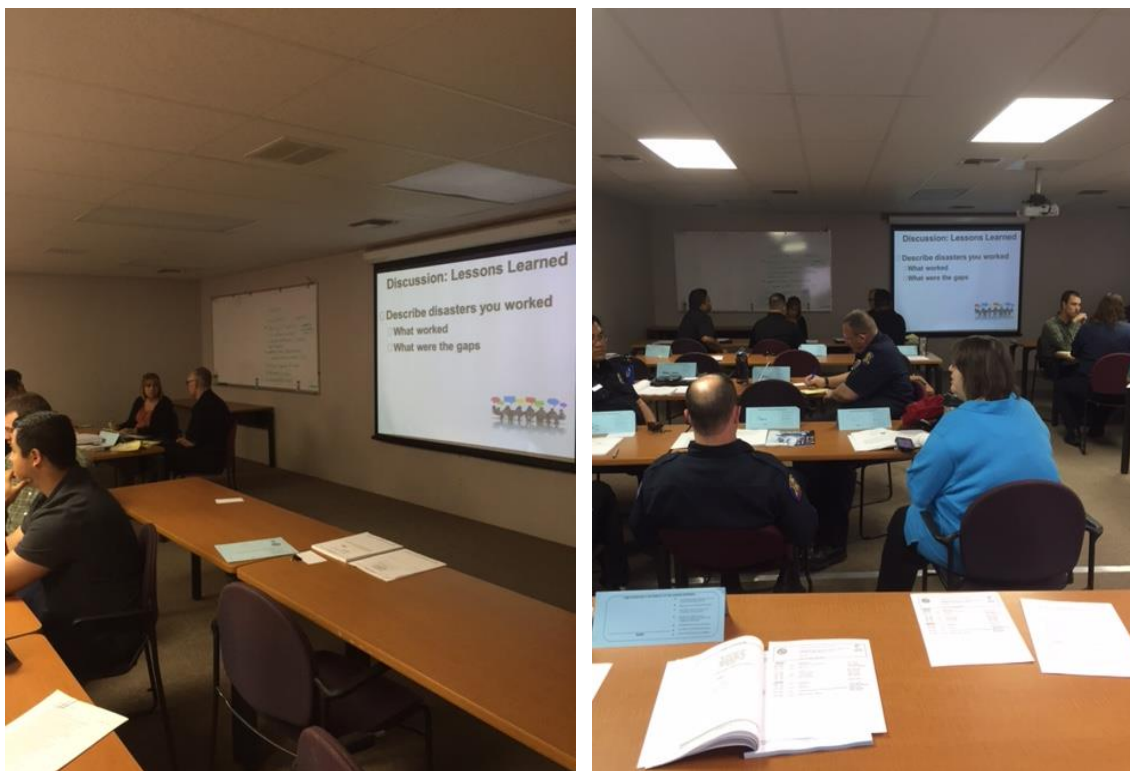
Individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs need to ask, "During an emergency, what would I need to get out safely?" This question needs to be asked, answered and resolved

before a disaster occurs because, as was the case when fires tore through Lake and Calaveras counties last year, when emergencies happen there often isn't time to drop everything in order to begin the planning process. There's only time for people to execute the plan they've already developed.

The great thing about personal preparedness is that it applies to any scenario. In other words, a personal preparedness plan is just as important and applicable during a fire as it is during an earthquake or a flood.

And so it is, that as government entities and individuals; we each have a role in preparedness. We each must do our part. We plan, prepare, integrate and work our way through the complex emergency management landscape together – often in tandem. And in so doing, we become a safer, more resilient California.

### **G-197 Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Management, Riverside County**



*Local emergency managers participating in small group discussions*

On April 19 – 20, 2016, OAFN, in partnership with the California Specialized Training Institute and subject matter expertise from the [County of Los Angeles, Office of Emergency Management](#) hosted California’s G197: Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Management course in Riverside, CA.

The purpose of this training was to empower local emergency managers and planners by providing them with an understanding of access and functional needs and a framework they can use to integrate disability access and inclusive practices into their plans and processes.

Following the course, participants indicated having gained a greater capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies with the whole community in mind. We appreciate the warm reception of our hosts at the [Ben Clark Training Center](#) and look forward to further collaboration with our local partners.

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