

The Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Minute

July 10, 2023

Welcome!

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Message from the Chief

L. Vance Taylor speaking at George Washington University



All,
Starting tomorrow, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (CDHSEM), and New York University (NYU) are hosting the two, half-day, online National AFN Symposium to highlight forward-leaning, inclusive, innovative practices in emergency management.

Over 2,300 people have registered to participate/attend! [Check out the full agenda, registration information, and pictures/bios for all of the](#)

participants and please join us on July 11 & 12, 2023 from 12:00pm – 3:00pm (Eastern).

The Symposium will bring the disability community together with emergency managers, disaster planners, and first responders from across the country in an online forum to foster an environment of trust and understanding vital to advancing the mission of access and functional needs throughout the nation.

The Symposium is sponsored by the American Red Cross and Big City Emergency Managers (BCEM). There is no cost to register.

Keynote Addresses will be provided by: Nancy Ward (Director, California, Governor's Office of Emergency Services) and Sherman Gillums, Jr. (Director, Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Panels will include:

Panel I: Getting Out Safely – Planning for Successful Emergency Evacuation Outcomes. Empowering local jurisdictions and individuals with access and functional needs to develop comprehensive, inclusive emergency evacuation plans that work for the whole community.

Panel II: Emergency Communication – Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications for Everyone. Not everyone in the community receives or processes information the same way. Emergency managers, communication experts, and advocates outline the strategies and best practices for reaching the whole community.

Panel III: Making Everyone Welcome – Establishing Physically and Programmatically Accessible Shelters. Successful sheltering requires more than being able to physically access the site, it means including the accessible cots, handwashing stations, portable restrooms, showers, dietary considerations, personal care services, and wrap-around services needed to make it programmatically accessible too.

Panel IV: Climate Change – An Existential Threat with Disproportionate Impacts on the Whole Community. Officials discuss the realities of climate change, the increased devastation associated with today's disasters, and its disproportionate impact on individuals with access and functional needs.

This event will be provided in ASL, Spanish, and have captioning/CART.

I hope to see you there!

-Vance

L. Vance Taylor

Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

My Shake App



If an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.5 or larger happens in or near your location, the MyShake early earthquake warning app can notify you seconds before it happens!

The MyShake App, which uses ground motion sensors to detect earthquakes before humans can feel them, notifies Californians to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On / Lock, Cover, and Hold On" in advance of an earthquake. Information on the epicenter, time, location, and magnitude of earthquakes is provided too. The app also uses audio and visual alerts and instructions.

The more people who download the MyShake app, the faster earthquake research can improve. You can get real-time information about earthquakes around the world, share information about earthquakes you felt, and learn how to prepare, survive, and recover.

Funded by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and designed by the University of California, Berkeley Seismologists, and Engineers, the MyShake App is now available for FREE to download to IOS users through the [Apple App Store](#) and [GooglePlay](#) for Android phones. For more information visit [Myshake](#).

Download it today!

Secure Your Space

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is working in partnership with the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA), the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), and Team Rubicon to provide and install nonstructural earthquake mitigation kits at Independent Living Centers (ILCs) and in consumer homes.

Each kit provided through this partnership will contain straps/fixtures to secure bookshelves, water heaters, and other hazards.

Following an earthquake, ILCs need to be able to:

- Mobilize staff and operate Centers
- Communicate with consumers
- Conduct wellness checks to assess unmet needs
- Provide evacuation and sheltering information to consumers

Following an earthquake, ILC consumers will need to be able to:

- Navigate their residences without damaged furniture, cabinet contents, televisions, or shelves blocking their path of travel.
- Avoid injury or harm due to the disruption and movement of heavy objects within their place of residence
- Request assistance if needed

Partners will also engage with ILCs to promote educational information for Centers and consumers. The overall goal of the collaborative project is to increase safety, preparedness, and resilience throughout the whole community.



Be sure to check out the Earthquake Preparedness video series [Access & Functional Needs Shakeout](#). These informative videos will help you consider how to plan, respond and recover from earthquakes. You can view this document and much more at the [Cal OES AFN Library](#).

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