



The Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Minute

June 3, 2024

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Message from the Chief



COLORADO
Division of Homeland Security
& Emergency Management
Department of Public Safety

Logos for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Colorado Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and New York University

All,

The 3rd Annual National AFN Symposium take place on **July 11 & 12, 2024** from 9:00am – 12:00pm (Pacific).

One of the essential primary elements of emergency management is an unwavering commitment to providing equal, accessible, quality service to every individual impacted by disaster – including individuals with access and functional needs (AFN).

To underscore the need to ensure considerations for individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs are addressed before, during, and after disasters; 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 3rd Annual National AFN Symposium, a two, half-day, online event that highlights forward-leaning, inclusive, innovative practices in emergency management.

Innovative work from across the nation will be showcased and specific examples of integrated outreach and communication, sheltering, planning, response, and recovery operations will be highlighted.

The 2024 National AFN 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.

American Sign Language interpretation, Spanish language translation, and captioning in English and Spanish will be provided.

Please [register today](#) for this fantastic event! More information about this event, including the full agenda and speaker information, is available on the [National AFN Symposium webpage](#).

Thank you.

-Vance

L. Vance Taylor

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

Heat-Related Resources



Icons for Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, and Stay Informed

Extreme heat events can cause power outages, impact cooling systems, and lead to harm, injury, illness or death. This is particularly true for individuals with access and functional needs who have difficulty regulating body temperature or who live with conditions that place them at greater risk for negative outcomes associated with heat-related

events.

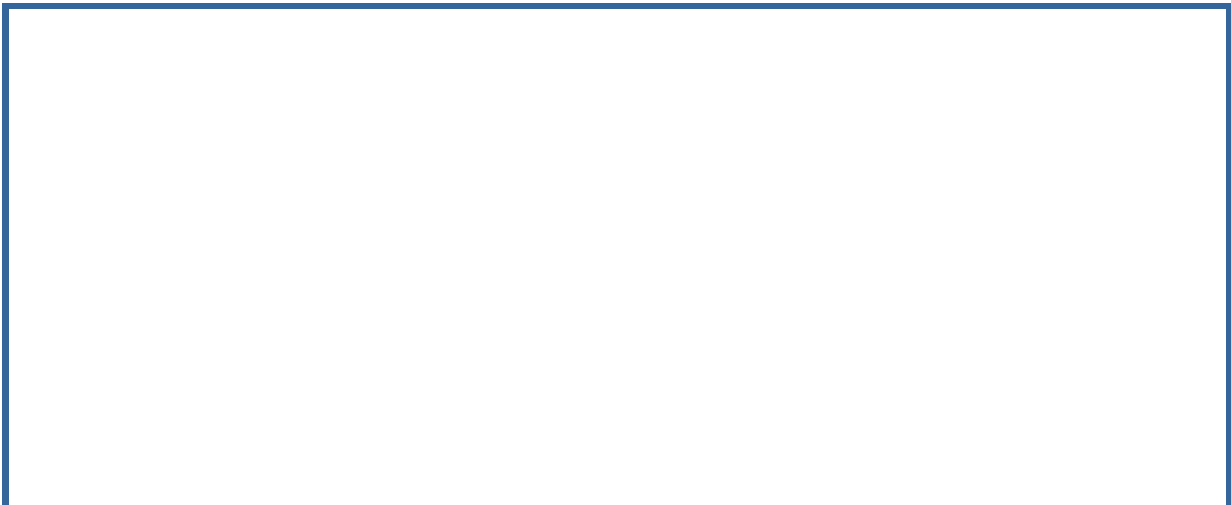
Recognizing the disproportionate impacts extreme heat has on individuals with access and functional needs, it is essential to ensure the plans, resources, and operations utilized to address this issue are inclusive of the whole community.

To empower local jurisdictions and individuals with access and functional needs to implement inclusive heat-related solutions, Cal OES worked with state, local, and community partners to develop the following resources:

- The [Extreme Temperature Response Plan](#) supports the State Emergency Plan and communicates how state government mobilizes and responds to extreme temperatures in coordination with partners at the National Weather Service, tribal nations, the private sector, and community-based organizations. This plan also provides guidance and checklists to assist local efforts.
- The [Accessible Cooling Center Guide](#) supports jurisdictions to plan for, and operate, accessible Cooling Centers that can serve people with disabilities and individuals with access and functional needs in an inclusive and equitable manner. The guide is available in multiple languages.
- The recently-developed [Integrated Evacuation Planning for Jurisdictions and Individuals with Access and Functional Needs](#) guide is designed to empower the development of comprehensive, inclusive emergency evacuation plans that benefit the whole community. The aim is to ensure everyone can evacuate to safety, including to Cooling Centers, when incidents and events occur.

When used individually, or taken together, these resources help jurisdictions, community planners, and individuals address extreme heat-related events in inclusive, accessible ways that increase preparedness and enhance overall community resilience.

Inclusive CPR Classes





A community educator providing CPR training to an older adult

To empower the safety, security, and health of all individuals, one of the City of San Diego's emergency ambulance providers is proactively bringing individuals with access and functional needs into emergency response by providing accessible CPR certification courses.

FALCK USA is sponsoring accessible CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training at no cost to the community.

Students include individuals who are blind or have low vision, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, older adults, and other individuals with a broad variety of physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities.

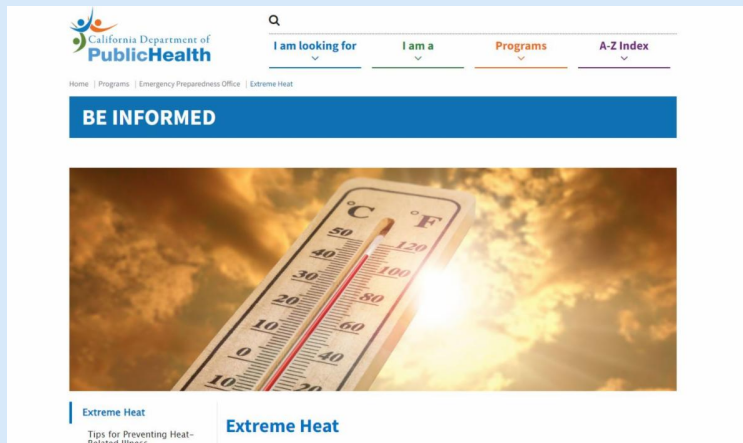
The courses are taught by emergency responders, take less than an hour to complete, and teach the basics of how to perform chest compressions and how to use an AED. Classes are tailored so students with disabilities and older adults can learn in a supportive environment that has been modified to work for their individual needs.

Individuals who cannot physically perform CPR are taught to recognize the signs of cardiac arrest, how to access emergency services, and how to instruct others to perform life-saving compressions.

This course, and others like it, are beginning to spread across California. The aim is to ensure everyone, regardless of their physical ability, learns how to be a link in the "chain of survival."

Individuals in the City of San Diego can schedule a free CPR class via [email](#) or telephonically by calling 858-405-5859.

Check out the California Department of Public Health's [webpage on extreme heat](#). This resource has information on how to prepare for extreme heat, what to do when it occurs, and ways to avoid health dangers, such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke.



The California Department of Public Health's website on extreme heat

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