

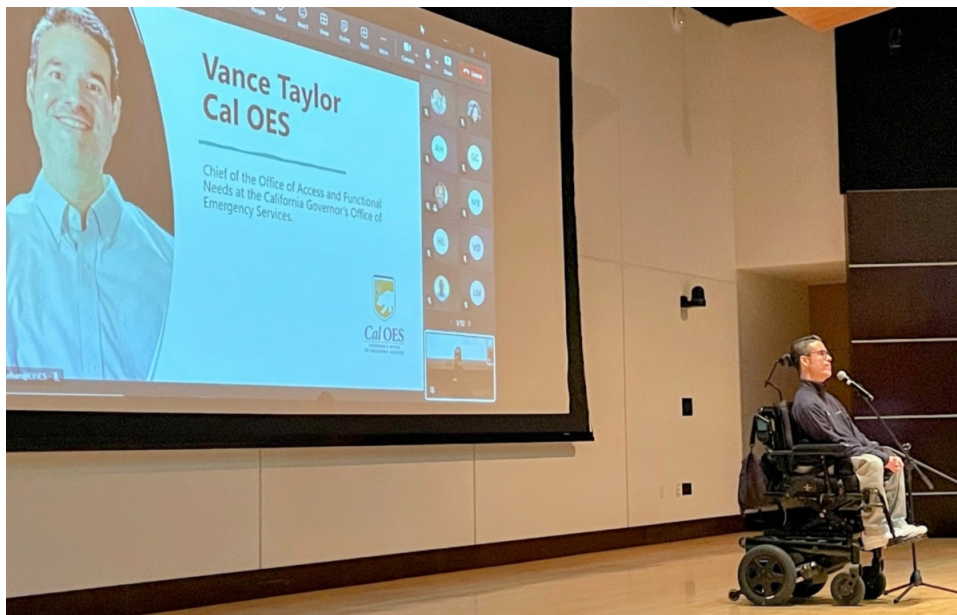
The Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Minute

September 24, 2024

Welcome!

If this was emailed directly to you, great news, you are already on our distribution list! If not, please [subscribe here](#) or use the button at the bottom of this email to be added to our mailing list.

Message from the Chief



L. Vance Taylor presenting at the California Department of Health Care Services' Emergency Preparedness Symposium

All,

As part of National Preparedness Month, the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) is highlighting the importance of planning ahead to ensure the safety and well-being of the whole community.

Recognizing that none of us has the unlimited knowledge or capability to fully prepare all on our own, we wanted to point you

towards resources that can support individuals and families with access and functional needs to enhance preparedness for any emergency.

Please check out the following resources:

- The "[Let's Get Prepared](#)" guide by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is a fantastic resource. The guide is designed to help individuals with disabilities address the specific needs they may face during an emergency. If you have a disability, extra planning is essential. This resource will guide you through the preparedness process.
- In partnership with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the California Department of Aging (CDA), Cal OES helped develop the "[Emergency Preparedness Guide and Toolkit](#)" to increase readiness among people with disabilities and older adults before, during, and after disasters. Whether you are preparing for wildfires, earthquakes, or any other disaster, this guide is designed to support your unique needs and considerations.
- The [American Red Cross](#) provides valuable preparedness tips and information for the whole community. In addition to great resources, their website has several apps to download on your smartphone that can be used to manage emergency communications, equipment, and hazards.

Whether enhancing your personal preparedness or supporting others as they seek to increase their own safety strategies, it's important to use all of the great information resources available help ensure the whole community is ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow, today.

Thank you.

-Vance

L. Vance Taylor

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

Wildfire Preparedness



Ready, Set, Go, fire preparedness

As California continues to push through a challenging fire season, the entire state remains on high alert. For individuals with access and functional needs, wildfire risks can be particularly severe. Taking proactive steps to prepare is essential as there are proven ways to reduce risk and safeguard lives.

To increase personal and community preparedness, everyone should:

Create an Emergency Plan

Develop a comprehensive personal emergency plan that includes communication methods, evacuation routes, and necessary supports. Ensure your network of caregivers, family, and neighbors is aware of your plan. For additional tips, visit www.listocalifornia.org/disaster-readiness.

Build an Emergency Kit

Prepare a kit with essentials such as non-perishable food, water, medications, clothing, important documents, flashlights, batteries, and a first aid supplies. Personalize your kit to include items critical to your unique needs, such as medicine, a power wheelchair charger, etc. For more ideas, watch the following video, which has [Go-Bag tips](#).

Stay Informed

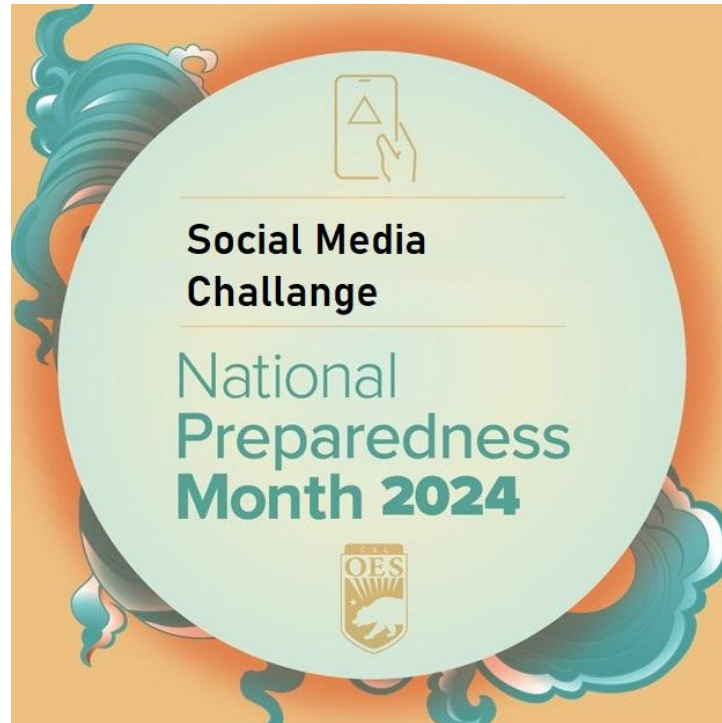
Keep up to date with wildfire conditions by following local news, radio stations, and official social media channels. Sign up for emergency alerts and notifications with [Cal Alerts](#) to receive timely information from local authorities.

Evacuation Readiness

Familiarize yourself with community evacuation routes and create a plan for where you will go if you need to leave your home. Ensure your vehicle is fueled and keep contact information for local transportation services handy. For more information, consult the [Cal OES Integrated Evacuation Planning Guide](#).

These important preparedness steps are empowering and, particularly for individuals with access and functional needs, increase resilience and reduce the risk of harm, injury, or death from wildfires.

Cal OES Social Media Challenge



An image that says "Social Media Challenge. National Preparedness Month 2024."

Whether you've got it packed with essentials like food, water, medications, and documents, or you've added personal items specific to your needs, having a well-stocked go bag is essential.

Cal OES wants to see how you've decided to pack your go-bag!

Take the following steps to show us:

1. Snap a picture or take a video of your emergency go-bag.
2. Post the picture or video of your go-bag on social media using the hashtag **#NationalPreparednessMonth2024** and tag **Cal OES**.
3. Visit news.caloes.ca.gov to learn more about how you can prepare, get tips from preparedness experts, and discover other ways to keep your family and community safe.

Share your go-bag today and inspire others to get ready for tomorrow!



National Preparedness Month with Ready.gov

Talking about potential disasters or emergencies isn't always easy, but discussing these topics is a crucial step on the path to preparedness. To help you get started, visit ready.gov/september for valuable resources and preparedness toolkits.

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