



Including People with Disabilities in Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

- There are so many people with just different disabilities. You do have to learn and you've got to be wise to it. This is really important that you actually do learn about your residents in your municipality. Because it's so much better because it means you will be able to better handle any emergency situation knowing that person, knowing what makes them work, and tick. It makes it safer for them, safer for you, and the outcome will be just so much better.
- We do two things. We train people with disabilities in preparing for an emergency. And we also train emergency planners and first responders because anyone can be affected by a flood, a fire, an earthquake, a pandemic, heat wave. And that is part of our job to really help people learn about what to do.
- The issue that we have focused on is giving people the skills so they are prepared for an emergency. We find a lot of people are not prepared, don't know what to do, don't know how to react, don't know who to call.
- We actually do have an organization called our core advisory group to talk to representatives from all of our disability connections. From whether they are autistic, or the family has somebody autistic, or hard of hearing, blind, other incapacities that we just have to worry about. And we sit down and we always try to find out what they think is the problem come disaster time.

- Part of our efforts is to prepare or train emergency personnel and emergency planners on interacting with people with disabilities. They need to learn about disabilities, the accommodations, the assistance that people with disabilities need. And we need to learn from them about what their procedures are, what way we need to know about people with disabilities.
- We do have the thing called Register Ready. We try to get people to register. Listen, if you have a problem, we'd really like to need to know about it beforehand. But, if you are concerned about being safe in an emergency, your emergency management coordinator is the person you need to talk to.

Let's live safely together.

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Children's Specialized Hospital, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, is the nation's leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children from birth to 21 years of age facing special health challenges- from chronic illnesses and complex physical disabilities like brain and spinal cord injuries, to a full scope of developmental, behavioral, and mental health concerns.

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