

Effective Emergency Management

Making Improvements for Communities
and People with Disabilities

National Council on Disability
August 26, 2009

What is NCD:

- NCD is an independent federal agency composed of 15 members appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate along with permanent staff.
- NCD provides advice to the President, Congress, and executive branch agencies to promote policies, programs, practices, and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society.
- NCD's Homeland Security Committee oversaw this study.

Objectives

- NCD commissioned a year long empirical study to identify how people with disabilities appear in the emergency management paradigm.
- The research team was free to cross into a variety of disciplines and review various documentation.
- NCD's objective was to find out what exists or doesn't exist on this topic; there was no pre-established conclusion the team needed to support; the research led to the findings.
- The team presented practical applications based on the findings to make the report useful in the field.

Overview of the Report

- Key Terms
- Scenarios
- Four Phases
 - Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recovery
 - Mitigation
- Emergency Managers
- Voluntary Organizations
- Implications from Research
- Initiatives in Progress
- Trends
- Interventions
- Appendices – resource section

Organization of Key Chapters

- Introduction/Overview
- Summary of Key Findings
- Review of Scientific Literature & Technical Reports
- Research Recommendations
- Practice Recommendations
- Policy Recommendations

Roadmap

- How to successfully use this report
- Practical applications

Methodology

- Extensive literature search across multiple disciplines: sociology, public health, policy, health professions, disaster studies, emergency management
- Contacted colleagues asking for copies of key pieces they had done
- Searched out technical reports (GAO, NOD, NCD)
- Looked at key pieces, such as plans written for shelters
- Searched out examples of people trying various efforts (OK Warn)
- Went through conference proceedings
- Listened to suggestions from NCD review panel
- Drafted sections, sent out for review, integrated comments

Key Findings

- Preparedness
 - Many emergency management agencies and people with disabilities remain unprepared, often due to a lack of resources.
 - Disaster planning needs to involve people with disabilities and disability organizations actively.
- Response
 - Work remains to be done, particularly in the areas of warning, search and rescue and evacuation.
- Recovery
 - Minimal research has been done; reports and proceedings indicate the recovery period is difficult (lack of accessible temporary housing, case workers having trouble finding resources to assist clients).
- Mitigation
 - A considerably under-investigated area despite the potential to significantly reduce the risks of people with disabilities.

Promising Progress

- Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities
- National Disaster Housing Strategy
- National Disability Coordinator
- Federal Highway Administration Special Needs Evacuation Planning Primer
- CPG 301, 302
- Hurricane Ike Impact Report for Special Needs Populations

Q & A

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