Planning With the Whole Community - Disaster Preparedness and Communication

Moving to the new model

Step 1: Eliminate discrimination in our thinking and vocabulary

Putting labels on people is counter productive. “Special” is Not Equal
“People with disabilities”
A protected class:
Protected from discrimination as defined by the ADA and other state and federal civil rights laws that detail the right to equal participation and the use of services.

1. More people have life limiting conditions than is commonly recognized.
2. Variation in human ability is ordinary, not special, and affects most of us at some point in our lives.
People with Access and Functional Needs

1. People first
2. Describes a class that expands and contracts based on the situation
3. Allows for people with life limiting conditions who may not be included in the “people with disabilities” category

Step 2: Plan “with” not “for” Everyone in the Community

Organize a Task Force
Federal law mandates “Inclusion”

Pandemic and All Hazard Preparedness Act of 2006
Executive Order 13166
Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) of 2006

See FEMA’s Non-discrimination Principles of the Law:
http://www.fema.gov/oer/reference/principles.shtmts laws

Planning Flow Chart

typical          revised

FEMA

State Emergency Planners  Local Emergency Planners  First Responders

CEO’s and Board

Local Planners

First Responders

State Agencies
“Special Needs” Registries

10 years of experience indicate that they do not work.

People with unrealistic expectations of service may not provide for their own preparedness.

Legal requirements of the ADA

Pre-location: Working with Whole Community Resources

1. Some people with access and functional needs are affiliated with Community Based Organizations (CBO’s) These trusted organizations keep track of their members. They know who to contact. Emergency Managers will find willing allies in CBO’s who will work with them to pre-locate individuals.

See: Guidance for Integrating Culturally Diverse Communities into Planning for and Responding to Emergencies: A Toolkit

Pre-location: Other Community Resources

2. Emergency Managers must involve other members of the community to develop information. CERT, Neighborhood Watch, Churches, Charities, and Food Banks can be valuable resources.

Whole Community Planning

1. Identify and locate People with Access and Functional Needs, and people with diverse racial and ethnic, backgrounds in your community.

2. Form sustainable partnerships to build trust with community representatives.

3. Design and test exercises that reflect the community and incorporate scenarios that explicitly involve People with Access and Functional Needs including LEP.
Step 3: Use the Skills of Trusted Individuals and Organizations

They are the conduit for passing information before during and after a disaster.

Disaster Communication-with the whole community

1. State and local emergency managers are required to deliver disaster information in Real Time
2. The ADA and other federal and state civil rights laws require that information be delivered equally.
3. At least 32 refugee languages are spoken in Utah.
Real Time Information Network for Refugees in a Disaster

Requires the Cooperation of

Refugee Community Organizations
State Refugee Resettlement Authority
Office of Emergency Management

Disaster information

Emergency Management ➔ State Refugee Authority ➔ Trusted Community Leadership ➔ Population
Preparedness for People with Disabilities and other Access and Functional Needs including LEP

Pandemic Flu Mitigation
72 Hour Emergency Kits
Preparedness Brochures

Step 4: Build Capacity for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)

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