FEMA Promising Practice: Establishing Disability Community Preparedness Through State and Local Efforts
Webinar March 10, 2016

Richmond, California CERT
People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs Community Outreach Program

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What we will cover today:

• Lessons Learned from past Disasters

• Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Training with and for People with Disabilities and others with Access and Functional Needs (PWD AFN)
  ❖ Why and How

• Tips and Best Practices
  ❖ Local CERT PWD/E Outreach Packet
Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina

- 73% of deaths in New Orleans Hurricane Katrina
  - Persons age 60+
  - Comprised only 15 percent of population

[Image: AARP. We Can Do Better: Lessons Learned for Protecting Older Persons in Disasters, 2006]

How we Started: - Didn’t Know what we didn’t know

- Secured TOP LEVEL SUPPORT
- Surveys to determine needs and challenges
  - Ask the tough questions – open dialogue
- Identified greatest concerns:
  - Security/Safety
  - Emergency Supplies, medications, etc.
  - Family/caregivers assistance and communications
  - Transportation
Realizations – Next Steps:

• Developed Action Items Matrix
   FEMA ADA Toolkit for Local Government
   Broken down in 8 categories
   Identified who, what, where, when and how
   Continuous improvement

• Developed collaborative Work Groups, agreements & continuous sharing
   Based on greatest concerns from survey

Looked at Plans and Training Gaps

• Issues/challenges identified in Surveys

• Resources
   Needed
   Available - collaborative efforts
    ▪ (DME providers agreements, etc.)

• Need to improve overall resilience for ALL community
Where we wanted to go – FULLY INCLUSIVE
Plans and Training:

• Emergency Operations Plans & Training
  ▪ First Responder Training
  ▪ Shelter Operations Plans & training
  ▪ Transportation & Evacuation
  ▪ Shelter-In-Place

• CERT Teams Training
  ▪ CERT Neighborhood Team Community Outreach Efforts

WHY CERT WORKED WELL

• CERT Goal: “To Do the Most Good for the most number of People”

WHY?
• Foster Collaboration WITH AND FOR PWD AFN & CERT Teams IN THEIR neighborhood

• CERT’s are in a unique position to increase resilience at the neighborhood level
Started with Basic ADA Issues

• Always treat everyone with respect

• PWD and others with AFN = over 30% population and growing

• Include in ALL planning
  ▪ “Nothing about us without us”

Basic ADA Issues and CERT Training

• Be Prepared - If you are not sure – ASK

• SAFETY FIRST
  ▪ Accessibility
  ▪ Mobility issues
  ▪ Lighting
  ▪ Audio
EVERYONE Needs to be Involved

- CERT Teams are in a unique position to help individuals prepare

- Planning *before* an emergency can save lives, reduce illness and injury

- Doing something NOW is better than hoping for assistance after emergency

CERT Training to Empower Everyone

- Think ahead…develop an emergency plan
  - Communication during emergency

- Make an emergency kit
  - Does not need to be complicated or expensive

- Stay informed
  - Local emergency plans and services

- Get involved
  - Join CERT Team
What roles do PWD AFN fulfill in CERT Teams?

- Incident Commander
- Team Leader
- Documentation
- Communications
- Logistics
- Safety Officer
- And more . . .

CERT Buddy System at its Best!

- Neighborhood CERT Teams working together
  - Team effort – role for everyone
    - training and planning
    - Increases preparedness for all
  - Empowering everyone
  - Speeds up recovery efforts
ADDITIONAL CERT TRAINING for PWD AFN

• Create an emergency support network

• Work with providers and social support networks to develop contingency plans for an emergency
  ▪ Complete Vial of Life
  ▪ Carry a medications list in your wallet
  ▪ Develop a transportation plan

CERT PWD AFN for all CERT Team Members

• Personal Preparedness
  ▪ Make a kit, stay informed, get involved

• Share emergency plans

• Communication

• Transportation
Contra Costa County CERT and Richmond CERT Efforts

Developed by Contra Costa County CERT PWD AFN collaboration with:
- County Health Services
- County Animal Services
- American Medical Response
  - Grant from UASI
  - English & Spanish

CERT Neighborhood Outreach Packets

- Community guide, resources, Vial of Life, Window signs & clings

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We are ALL in this together

• Right thing to do

• Right time

• Right reason –
  ▪ For the Good of the whole community

Conclusion – How to be Inclusive and Collaborative?

• Must have top level support

• Continue to outreach and question

• Continue to collaborate

• Continue to do the right thing for ALL
Finally

Working together increases everyone’s chances for survival

Questions?

Thank You – AND a BIG Thanks to Contra Costa County CERT Committee!

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