Grassroots Emergency Preparedness: Get Involved Helping Individuals and Your Community

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Our Basic Goals

- Encouraging individuals to personally prepare
- Encouraging individuals with access and functional needs and emergency responders to communicate better, discussing their own needs, expectations, and responsibilities
- Encouraging local businesses and organizations to continue to maintain and improve upon their individual emergency plans, if they have any

Our Basic Goals

- Encouraging city leaders, businesses, and organizations to communicate with one another to discover best practices and address possible overlaps in their respective plans
- Encouraging city leaders, businesses, and organizations to gather periodically with emergency managers and responders to discuss how their emergency plans would dovetail with the community plan, as well as how each organization might contribute its personnel and resources in the event of an emergency scenario

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Some Access and Functional Needs

- People in institutional settings
- People with limited English proficiency
- Cultural
- Elderly
- Children
- Homeless
- Illiteracy

- Hearing loss
- Vision loss
- Mobility disabilities
- Speech disabilities
- Cognitive disabilities
- Mental/behavioral health
- Transportation challenged

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What Are We Up Against?

- People in general are unprepared for an emergency evacuation
- Emergency preparedness and evacuation planning for people with disabilities and other access and functional needs often requires more in depth considerations
- A disconnect in understanding and communication exists between those being evacuated and the ones responsible for evacuating them
- Everybody is busy, so it can be challenging to collaborate
- Funding for resources and putting on local events is harder than ever to come by
- Even after individuals have been informed of how to make basic preparations, they simply don't

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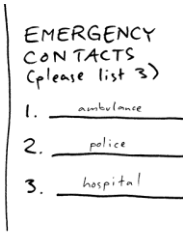
What Are We Up Against?



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What Does It Take to Address the Issues?

- Emergency planners and responders need to be informed about the various needs of people with disabilities and other access and functional needs and where they are in your community
- Spreading the word throughout the community through every means available (newspaper, newsletter, radio, TV, internet, social media, presentations, etc.)

What Does It Take to Address the Issues?

- Commitment of family members, friends, caregivers, church groups, healthcare providers, etc. to become and remain involved with the emergency preparedness needs of those with disabilities and other access and functional needs
- Keep the family communication plan and go-kit current, as new issues, equipment and supplies change
- Each community partner must decide how it can contribute to the overall community emergency plan

"responsibility, accountability, and peer pressure"
are what motivate people

Intentions to Action:
Tips for Creating a Culture of Preparedness
Mary Schoenfeldt
Washington Office of Emergency Management

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Our Community's Hopeful Beginning

- Kicked off with a regional conference, March 2014
  - Almost 80 attended, from more than 20 counties
  - Four-person panel discussion/Q&A session
  - Three main categories of questions: Notification & Warning, Transportation & Evacuation, and Sheltering & Personal Preparedness
- Followed up with several emergency preparedness presentations within local community

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Our Community's Hopeful Beginning

- Recognized September 2014 for outreach efforts
- Successes publicized locally and more broadly
- Further opportunities for spreading the word through this and the Governor's Conference on Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in February

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What Do the Presentations Entail?

Would You Be Ready

if emergency responders needed to evacuate you from your residence in the event of a fire or other emergency?

Most people don't think about these things until it's too late.

Do yourself and emergency personnel an important service—

Prepare Yourself!

Even a little preparation can make a big difference!

The following are just a few things to consider:

- ✓ Keep together in one place personal identification documents like your driver's license, birth certificate, Social Security card and other important insurance or medical papers or numbers
- ✓ Consider what medical equipment, supplies or medication you may need to take, including lists of allergies and medications
- ✓ Be ready to give brief, clear, specific instructions to emergency personnel
- ✓ If you have speaking limitations, you may want to label medical equipment, etc. and write instructions for its care and use
- ✓ Put together a list of telephone contacts, both local and long-distance
- ✓ Plan your personal finances (checking, cash and credit cards)
- ✓ Plan your transportation needs (including backups)
- ✓ Plan where you might go or stay, temporarily or more permanently
- ✓ Create a portable emergency supply kit (see websites below)
- ✓ If you have a service animal or pet, plan how you will care for it; pets may not be allowed wherever you may be temporarily sheltered

You can also find help at the following websites:

www.ready.gov/build-a-kit
http://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs

PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM

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What's at Stake?

- The lives and general well-being of everyone in the community, including people with access and functional needs, with or without disabilities
- The livelihood and reputations of communities
- The reputations of businesses, agencies, facilities, and emergency planners and responders
- Potential litigation
- Potential loss of federal/state mitigations funding

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What's at Stake?

- Potential loss of trust in community leaders
- Escalation of the impact of the disaster on the community
- Longer and more difficult recovery for the community
- Media focus on what went wrong, not on what went right

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What Are You Going to Do?

- How might you get involved in your community doing whatever you do best or offering whatever resources you have available?
- Situational awareness
  - What are the hazards and risks in your particular community? (ADM/Bakken oil)
  - How would evacuation and transportation work?
  - Long term versus short term evacuation?

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What Are You Going to Do?

- What resources are available in your community?
- Which organizations might you partner with? Whether you are a business, organization, school, clinic, or assisted living facility, let your local emergency managers and planners know how exactly you might or might not be able to help them in a response to a community disaster

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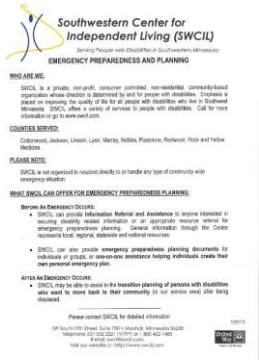
Emergency Preparedness MOU



Southwestern Center for Independent Living (SWCIL)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING

WHO ARE WE:

SWCIL is a private, non-profit, consumer controlled, non-residential, community-based organization whose direction is determined by and for people with disabilities. Emphasis is placed on improving the quality of life for all people with disabilities who live in Southwest Minnesota. SWCIL offers a variety of services to people with disabilities. Call for more information or go to www.swcil.com.

COUNTIES SERVED:

Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock and Yellow Medicine

PLEASE NOTE:

SWCIL is not organized to respond directly to or handle any type of community wide emergency situation.

WHAT SWCIL CAN OFFER FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING:

Before An Emergency Occurs:

- SWCIL can provide **Information Referral and Assistance** to anyone interested in securing disability related information or an appropriate resource referral for emergency preparedness planning. General information through the Center represents local, regional, statewide and national resources.
- SWCIL can also provide **emergency preparedness planning documents** for individuals or groups, or **one-on-one assistance helping individuals create their own personal emergency plan.**

After An Emergency Occurs:

- SWCIL may be able to assist in the **transition planning of persons with disabilities who want to move back to their community** (in our service area) after being displaced.

Please contact SWCIL for detailed information

109 South Fifth Street, Suite 700 • Marshall, Minnesota 56258
Telephone (507) 532-2221 (V/TTY) or 1-800-422-1465
Email: swcil@swcil.com
Visit our website at: http://www.swcil.com

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Contact Information

Ted Stamp
Independent Living Advocate
Southwestern Center for Independent Living
ted@swcil.com
507-532-2221 (V/TTY)

Tammy VanOverbeke
Lyon County Emergency Manager
TammyVanOverbeke@co.lyon.mn.us
507-929-6615

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Questions?

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