

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

LINKS WITH INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

There are a number of organizations that have developed emergency preparedness information specific persons with disabilities or special needs.

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org/services/disaster/

The American Red Cross has the following information available on their web site for emergency preparedness that is specifically related to persons with disabilities:

- Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities (Booklet)
<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/disability.pdf>
- This 48-page booklet is designed to help people who have physical, visual, auditory or cognitive disabilities to prepare for natural disasters and their consequences. It can be downloaded from this Red Cross web site. The booklet is available in English only.
- The booklet is also available for a small charge in an audiocassette tape (English only). To obtain a copy, contact the main Red Cross number listed below:

American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles
2700 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90057-3202
Phone: 213-739-5200

- Emergency Plan for People with Disabilities and Mobility Issues
This brochure is can be downloaded from this labt.org web site. See Home Page and click on “Get a Brochure.”
- Disaster Preparedness for Seniors By Seniors
<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/seniors.html>
 - This several page pamphlet provides additional information for the elderly and people with special medical concerns that could hinder mobility during a disaster. It can be downloaded for free from the Red Cross web site.
 - The pamphlet is available in the following languages: English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- Additional Information on American Red Cross web site that related to persons with disabilities:
Go to main web site at: <http://www.redcross.org/>. Next click on “Disaster Services” and then “Foreign Language Materials”

The American Red Cross has disaster preparedness materials available on their web site for the below disability-related topics. The materials are not all available in the same foreign languages. To see what languages are available for a specific topic, click on the "Foreign Language Materials" link listed above.

- Earthquake Tips for People With Disabilities
- People Who Are Hearing Impaired
- People With Environmental Illness or Chemical Sensitivities
- People With Special Medical Needs
- People Who Use Life Support Systems
- People With Psychiatric Disabilities
- Helping Young Children Cope With Trauma

City of Los Angeles Department of Disability (DOD)

<http://www.lacity.org/dod/>

213-485-6334

213-485-6655 - TTY

The DOD web site has information on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, including a 46 page handbook that can be downloaded for free. The handbook is easy to read with large print and includes information that will be of special interest to those with visual, and mobility disabilities, owners of service animals and pets, persons who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, and those with special medical needs.

Living Independently in Los Angeles (LILA)

<http://lila.ucla.edu>

LILA is a consumer-directed and regionally focused online project to benefit people with disabilities living in Los Angeles County. LILA uses a GIS-based (Geographic Information Systems - a map formatting tool), interactive information resource database, created by local residents with disabilities using their personal "expert knowledge" to identify and map local independent living resources. Through collaborations with local governments and private non-profit community service agencies, the LILA information system incorporates a variety of databases relevant to the Los Angeles disability and senior community. These may include the locations of services and programs benefiting people with disabilities, local businesses serving the community, accessibility features of publicly subsidized housing, inclusive recreation programs, independent living resource information, etc.

The LILA project's purpose is to empower disabled residents of Los Angeles in their efforts to successfully and independently integrate into the social, physical and political fabric of their communities.

Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions (CDIHP)

<http://www.cdihp.org>

- Western University in Pomona, California established CDIHP in 1998 in response to the concerns of the disability community. The Center focuses on:
1) Improving the capabilities of health care providers to meet the needs of people with disabilities through the integration of disability
- CDIHP has many online resources, including a booklet, "**Emergency Evacuation Preparedness: A Guide for People with Disability and Other Activity Limitations.**" This 36-page guide focuses on people with disabilities and activity limitations successfully evacuating buildings. Its goal is to help people with disabilities strengthening their evacuation preparedness.
- This material is available online on the above web site or for a hard copy, can be obtained for \$24.00 from CDHIP. Contact: 909.623.6116

Disabled People and Disaster Planning (DP2)

DP2 was a group of people primarily from Los Angeles County who met during 1996 and 1997 and formulated recommendations to reduce or eliminate problems with accessibility that many disabled people experienced after the Northridge Earthquake of 1994. Within the group were individuals with disabilities and individuals from the disaster planning and response professions.

Although DP2 is no longer a committee, the web site is maintained by two members of DP2 in order to continue disseminating information to interested people in Los Angeles and other localities subject to major earth movements. The web site contains the group's recommendations, as well as other information relevant to assisting people with disabilities prepare for and cope with disastrous earthquakes. From time to time, new information may be added.

Contact information for DP2: Robert Gorski, 626-744-4782 (voice and TDD) 626-744-7035 (fax); E-mail: rgorski@ci.pasadena.ca.us

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

<http://www.fema.gov/library/disprepf.shtm>

- FEMA has a one page sheet with tips on disaster preparedness for people with disabilities on their web site. Available in English only.

The National Organization on Disability (NOD)

<http://www.nod.org/emergency>

- NOD launched its Emergency Preparedness Initiative in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attack. The objectives of the initiative are: 1) to make sure that the special needs of people with disabilities are adequately

addressed prior to an emergency in order to minimize the adverse impact on them and their communities and 2) to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the emergency planning process at all levels of government so they can offer their insights, knowledge, and resourcefulness.

As a result of the initiative, NOD developed a “Guide on the Special Needs of People with Disabilities” for emergency managers, planners & responders that highlights key disability concerns to those officials and experts responsible for emergency planning in their communities, and assists them in developing plans that will take into account the needs and insights of people with disabilities before, during and after emergencies.

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