



Mississippi Emergency Management
Agency

Serving the Whole Community Together

How Can We Help You?

May 8, 2018





Disability Integration Bureau

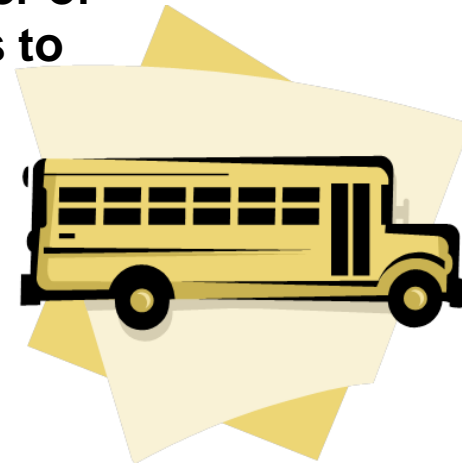
Projects to Serve the Whole Community



Project Evacuation

PURPOSE FOR PROJECT:

- **A Majority of MS Counties plan to rely upon the School District and School buses for evacuation.**
- **Number of accessible school buses is limited.**
- **Fleet mentioned in the EMP is available, but information about the fleet, i.e., name, location, contact information, number of accessible vehicles, passenger capacity and willingness to assist, has ever been compiled.**
- **No assignment from MDOT to the SEOC to assist in coordinating the fleet if needed.**
- **Population and location of those needing evacuation assistance is unknown**





Project Evacuation

Goals and Objectives

- **Get county Emergency Managers assistance in developing relationships with entities serving the disability community in order to locate those needing assistance to evacuate and to develop relationship with transit companies.**
- **Complete database of transit options and make available to counties and MDOT.**
- **Develop protocol to outline responsibilities of agencies involved**





Project Evacuation

Accomplishments to Date:

- **Met with Director of Public Transit at MDOT and got buy-in**
- **Contacted all 5310 and 5311 Specialized Transportation programs in the state and obtained information, got their buy-in and created a database.**

Ongoing

- **Enhancing transportation options database with other available vehicles (i.e., Medicaid non-emergency transit programs)**
- **Developing list of agencies that can assist counties in locating individuals needing assistance (i.e., home health agencies, transportation agencies, planning and development districts, meals on wheels)**
- **Develop a task force comprised of a few county Emergency managers, ECO from state disability entities and MDOT**



“Are We Prepared” Training

PURPOSE:

- Decrease the number of people with disabilities killed or injured in disasters

GOAL

- Teach the importance of preparedness to as many people with disabilities as possible in Mississippi using the network of service providers in the state





“Are We Prepared” Training

Training has been provided to:

- 1000 individuals with disabilities throughout MS, LA, AR, TX, OK and AZ
- **Conferences Presented to:**
 - Aging and Adult Services
 - Trauma Conference for Children
 - MS Department of Special Education
 - MS Disability Megaconference
 - Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness
 - Region VI Independent Living Conference
 - National Council on Independent Living
 - MS Council for the Blind
 - Public Transit Conference



“Are We Prepared” Instructor’s Training

PURPOSE:

- Decrease the number of people with disabilities killed or injured in disasters

GOAL

- Teach the importance of preparedness to as many people with disabilities as possible in Mississippi using the network of service providers in the state





“Are We Prepared” Instructor’s Training

Accomplishments to Date

- Training was prepared and approved by MEMA and the Response and Recovery for Everyone (RARE) Advisory Committee
- Instructor Notebooks completed including print copies of training, flash drive with training and resources and DVD with video of training to include sign language interpreters.
- Training has been provided one time to a group of disability advocates from throughout the state.





Deaf Interpreting Project

PURPOSE

- Improve access to deaf interpreters in the state by contracting with interpreters as MEMA Reservists.
- Ensure timely access to interpreters in the event that a deaf person is staying in a shelter, a deaf person is located in the community and needs communication with county emergency managers, disaster survivor assistance teams or MEMA staff
- Ensure access to qualified interpreters for press conferences





Deaf Interpreting Project

Accomplishments to Date:

- MEMA has trained six sign language interpreters to serve as MEMA Reservists
- A collaboration with a local television station has been developed to provide sign language interpreters the opportunity to practice interpreting the news and weather reports in an effort to increase the number of interpreters statewide that are comfortable in being on camera for press conferences and news reports during a disaster.
- Established relationships and protocols with deaf interpreters, and state agencies that provide services to the deaf community, to ensure timely and appropriate deaf services are rendered.



Deaf/Blind Community Project

PURPOSE

To ensure that the population in the state who are both deaf or low hearing AND blind or low vision are provided with equitable services at all stages of an emergency - preparedness, response and recovery

GOALS

- Locate individuals who are deaf/blind living independently in the community
- Establish communication
- Provide emergency preparedness training to this population
- Provide training to first responders, including county emergency managers on methods of approach and communication

Note: We are uncertain exactly how many individuals are in the state that are both blind and deaf who are living in the community, but we do know that there are some living independently. Most likely have support from family, neighbors, and service providers.



Deaf/Blind Community Project

Accomplishments to Date:

- Meeting scheduled with State Fire Academy to discuss training needs of first responders
- Meeting scheduled for mid-May with deaf/blind – low hearing/low vision advocates and service providers to discuss needs of the population, locating them, establishing communication and providing training.





Reservist Recruitment of People with Disabilities

PURPOSE

To ensure that people with disabilities receive the services they need at all stages of an emergency – preparedness, response and recovery. And to assist the counties in the provision of those services.

GOAL

To recruit individuals with disabilities and those with personal knowledge of disability (parents, primary care providers, disability rights advocates) from various areas of the state to be MEMA Disaster Reservists. These reservists can work with the Disability Integration Bureau or they can be assigned to other areas as needed.



Reservist Recruitment of People with Disabilities

Accomplishments to Date:

- The Disability Integration Bureau has held four training sessions specific to disabilities to date. Two were to recruit reservists interested in working with the disability integration bureau. One was specifically to train a few to work in the EOC. The third was training a group to assist the counties and MEMA exercise bureau during exercises.
- A total of 49 individuals either with a disability or personal knowledge of disability have been recruited
- Reservists continue to receive training on various aspects of emergency and working with the county emergency managers and MEMA during a disaster.





How Can We Help You?

Questions



Comments

Suggestions





Christy Dunaway

Disability Integration Advisor

cdunaway@mema.ms.gov

Kelli Hamilton

Office of Outreach Services Staff

khamilton@mema.ms.gov

Christine Woodell

Disability Integration Reservist

cwoodell5@gmail.com

