

Resources on Disaster Preparedness

Disaster Personal Resources



Disaster safety education is highly recommended for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons to understand basic weather knowledge. This education is vital in preparing them to respond properly to weather threats. Contact your local National Weather Service office, your state emergency management agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or your American Red Cross chapter for help with the following:

- o Educate yourself concerning the threat and danger of various weather hazards.
- o Familiarize yourself with weather warnings.
- o Attend safety talks.
- o Follow basic safety rules.
- o Develop a family disaster plan for weather emergencies.
- o Check your library and local media outlets for additional resources.



Joe M. Allbaugh
*Director of
Federal Emergency
Management (FEMA)*

National Policy Resources



Tom Ridge
Director of Homeland Security

In today's climate, information is being constantly rewritten. To help our readers stay on top of ongoing developments, TDI is participating in an emergency preparedness task force with other disability organizations and public safety officials. Other organizations such as the National Association of the Deaf are on this task force that was put together by the National Organization on Disabilities (NOD), and the National Council of Independent Living (NCIL). This task force has developed a statement titled, "Emergency Preparedness and People With Disabilities: Principles & Responsibilities" and presented it to Mr. Tom Ridge, Director of Homeland Security to ensure that any new anti-terrorism rules do not trample on the rights of persons with disabilities. This statement is reprinted on page 15 of



this GA-SK. Various government agencies have sent out e-mails that clarify their policies on implementing security measures that affect citizens with disabilities.

Online Disaster Preparedness Resources

Government agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (www.fema.gov) and major disaster relief organizations such as the American Red Cross (www.redcross.org) offer tips on emergency preparedness and community resources for people with disabilities and their families. There are many excellent disaster preparedness education sources containing detailed information on weather safety and various types of natural and manmade hazards on the Internet:



- o FEMA Preparedness Information www.fema.gov/pte/prep.htm
- o FEMA Safety Rules for Kids www.fema.gov/kids/herman/index2.htm
- o National Organization on Disability www.nod.org
- o National Severe Storms Laboratory www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu
- o NWS Preparedness and Safety Information www.nws.noaa.gov/stormready/awareness.htm
- o NOAA Education Weather for Kids & Students www.education.noaa.gov/sweather.html
- o NOAA Family Disaster Plan www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwr.pdf
- o NOAA Safety Tips - Weather & Natural Disaster Related www.websites.noaa.gov/safeweather.html
- o Red Cross' Safety Tips for People with Disabilities www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/family.html#disabilities
- o Tornado Project www.tornadoproject.com/safety/safety.htm#top



Resources on Disaster Preparedness (Continued)



The US Access Board's website, features (among many other topics) explanations of ADA requirements for accessible egress, areas of rescue assistance, and provides links to information developed by other organizations on evacuation planning and disaster preparedness. On the website is information about the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) specifications for emergency alarms: they must meet criteria that address audible and visual features. Visual strobes serve to notify people who are deaf or hard of hearing that the alarm has sounded. Visual alarms are required in hallways, lobbies, restrooms, and any other common usage area, such as meeting and conference rooms. For detailed information, go to www.access-board.gov/evac.htm



Major News Media Resources

Here is a list of some of the major national news media websites where you can sign up for emergency news alerts. These alerts can be sent to your computer e-mail account or to your pagers. Additionally, many local news outlets (newspapers and local television stations) offer local news alerts from their websites.

The Emergency E-mail Network is a national, free public service that can send you e-mail notification on natural calamities, man-made disasters or other emergencies in your area. Go to the Emergency E-mail Network at www.emergencyemailnetwork.com, select your state and county where you live and work, then enter your zip code and your e-mail or pager address.

- * ABC News: <http://abcnews.com>. Click "News Alerts" for e-mail or "Downloads" for software on the left.
- * CNN: www.cnn.com/EMAIL
- * MSNBC: <http://newsalert.msnbc.com> for software version; <http://email.msnbc.com> for e-mail version.
- * The New York Times: www.nytimes.com. Click "E-Mail Options" on left after registering.
- * USA Today Weather: www.usatoday.com/weather/wsaf0.htm
- * The Washington Post: www.washingtonpost.com. See "E-Mail Updates" on right side.
- * Yahoo: <http://news.yahoo.com>. Click on "News Alerts" and then "Breaking News" on the upper right side.

Computer Weather Resources

If you have a computer with Internet access, look at the Weather Bug (<http://ww3.weatherbug.com/>) or The Weather Channel (www.weather.com). Both sites offer free downloadable programs that displays a temperature next to your clock on your computer. Click on the icon, and it will expand to a comprehensive weather station on your desktop.



weather.com