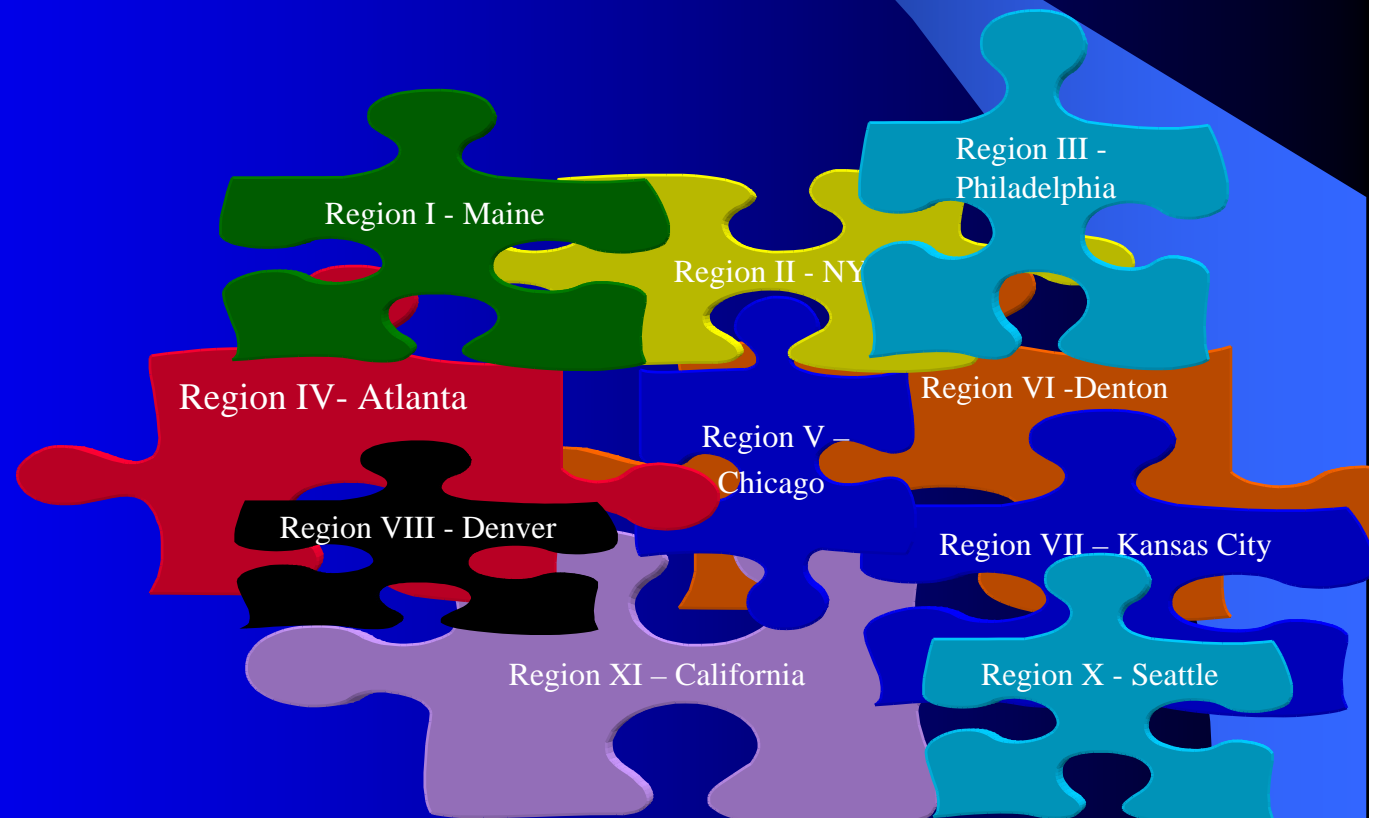


Working Conference
Emergency Management for
Individuals with Disabilities and
the Elderly
State Summaries
June 28-30, 2006

Overview

- States came together by regions to discuss their challenges , barriers and next steps.



Important Issues Discussed in Regions I thru X

- a. Registers
- b. Shelters
- c. Evacuation and Personal Preparedness
- d. Transportation
- e. Communication
- f. Funds/Resources
- g. Self Identification
- h. Local Support and Response
- i. Accommodations
- j. Definition of “Special Needs”
- k. Recovery
- l. Special Needs Population
- m. Education, Training, Awareness
- n. Geography Mapping

FEMA Region I – Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts

Challenges & Barriers

Maine, Vermont

- No statewide or local registries

New Hampshire

- Communication, transportation, and evacuation sites

Vermont

- Sheltering is a local event..
- Use of State funds and involvement
- Self identification is hard.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts

- Areas of Consensus:
- Personal preparedness
- Regional Efforts
- Minimize segregation
- Regional volunteer database
- Inclusive & comprehensive planning
- Comprehensive communication planning
- What is the role of public health in EMF?
- The Red Cross is not meeting the need.
- Service animals need to be accommodated

Next Steps

Maine

- Attending state wide conferences.
- Share resources in New England; unique opportunity to “cross borders” to support each other.

Vermont, Connecticut

- Developing/creating an emergency preparedness system.

New Hampshire, Massachusetts

- Sharing resources, volunteers, staff with other states.
- Develop a database of credentialed volunteers.

FEMA Region II – New York, Virgin Islands, New Jersey, Puerto Rico

Challenges & Barriers

New York, New Jersey, Virgin Islands

- Organizations working together in their respective roles
- Self Identification

New York, Puerto Rico,

- Definition of Special Needs
- Education and dissemination of the information is currently problematic.

Virgin Islands

- How to create an on going grass roots effort and a functioning structure out of that effort.

Next Steps

New York, Virgin Islands, New Jersey & Puerto Rico

- Create a contact list of state wide stakeholders – anyone involved in emergency management – so that people can access information about available resources
- Build consensus around one definition of “special needs.”
- Develop outcomes and then take them to the Gov. to endorse. Then bring the islands together.

FEMA Region III - DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Challenges & Barriers

Delaware:

- Delaware can only staff 2 shelters.
- Evacuation is a coordinated effort with MD, VA.
- State Department of Transportation is currently redefining a state-wide evacuation plan.
- Vendors that can provide shelters.

Virginia:

- What agency takes the lead in terms of service provision.
- What a special needs population needs to be assessed.
- Need to pre-identify which shelters are long term vs. short term shelters.
- How churches are a viable form of shelter?
- How security issues need to be taken into account in order to determine the location of the shelters.

West Virginia:

- Improved communications, accurate assessment of what special needs demands,
- Make sure that people are aware of their responsibilities.
- Need a special needs task force to come up with a strategic plan.
- Identify people with disabilities
- Definition of special needs.
- Who are the key players

Pennsylvania

- Share best practices for sheltering
- Review their communication for sheltering methods.

Maryland

- Evacuation guidance for operational procedures.
- Autonomies.
- Consistent evacuation policy
- Pursue funding to conduct evacuation drills.
- Consistent communication methods.

Next Steps

Pennsylvania

- **Hold discussions with contingent states on ingress, egress and traffic patterns.**

West Virginia

- **Prepare a white paper to the Governor that provides an overview of evacuation and sheltering needs, assesses risks and identifies other issues, with the goal of eventually developing a strategic plan.**

Virginia

- **Create guidelines for what constitutes a shelter and what services/features a shelter should have, both short-term and long-term.**

FEMA Region IV – Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Challenges & Barriers

Alabama

- What to do with people of other States that are sheltering in AL?
Need to make public awareness.

Florida

- Discharge plan for shelters.
- Deployed teams from FEMA or another State or county MUST remember that they are there to help, not to usurp the duties and responsibilities of the local responders.

Georgia

- Funds needed for full-time personnel for emergency preparedness

Kentucky

- Training for responders
- Aging and Special Needs populations living independently and in rural areas.

Mississippi

- State agencies are very compartmentalized.
- Access of information needs to be easier.
- Fighting against the apathy of the population.
- People still living in FEMA trailers from last year.

North Carolina

- Personal responsibility for yourself and your family.
- Public education of developing a personal plan.

South Carolina

- Transportation of special needs population.

Tennessee

- Educate first responders and general population

Next Steps

Alabama

- Resource mapping for nursing homes, especially those that have ambulatory care and those that do not.

Florida

- Planning tool-kit for each county.

Georgia

- Tool kit and recommendations for each county that is part of a larger state plan.

Kentucky

- Establish an education plan
- Use the GIS mapping process
- Organize a state-wide conference or event with special needs providers

Mississippi

- Establish a registry.
- Inclusive in state-wide planning.
- Educate ALL parties, particularly case-managers

North Carolina

- Evaluate NC's statutes.

South Carolina

- Create a registry to identify special needs people in particular geographical areas.
- Work with State agencies to develop and maintain these registries.
- Pull together information of local agencies that will collaborate during a disaster and provide emergency housing, food, water, medical attention, etc.

Tennessee

- View State and county funding.

FEMA Region V – Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Challenges & Barriers

Illinois

- Who should bare the cost?
- Not prepare for catastrophic events which require relocation.

Indiana

- Lack of awareness of current plan

Wisconsin

- Emergency planners need include special populations representatives early into planning process, not just as representatives but as full participants.

Ohio

- Need for local level planning, with State-level coordination / guidance, with recognition that one-size-fits-all not appropriate for individuals AND for communities.
- Definitional issues need be resolved so inclusiveness and self-identification can be seen more appropriate.
- Need re-examine emergency preparedness planning standard for shelter based upon experience that shelter needs exceed the three-day standard

Michigan

- First responders may need additional training in assisting special populations, including not pigeon-holing such individuals.
- Expect less Federal funding and more Federal mandates

Next Steps

Illinois

- Tracking those evaluated.

Indiana

- Find out about State plan.

Wisconsin

- Review, and as appropriate revise, long-term facility licensing requirements, to ensure emergency preparedness is addressed.
- Broader outreach to Special Education classes, rehabilitation facilities, and other appropriate resources to get input

Ohio

- Coordinate local emergency preparedness plans .

Michigan

- Help coordinate efforts of community groups develop their emergency preparedness plans for their members.
- Develop tool kits for individual checklist and provide ideas

FEMA Region VI – Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma

Challenges & Barriers

Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, & Oklahoma

- Remote access
- Limited access to technology
- Inconsistency of response staff and resource allocation which influences the state plan and planning process.
- Medicaid waivers to allow state-to-state service to the people utilizing the “money follow the people” model.
- Lack of a common definition of “special needs”.
- Inclusiveness

Next Steps

Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, & Oklahoma

- Letter of concerns to the Governors
- States split responsibilities and task for the development of the recommendations
- Draft of shelter training and shelter DD requirements recommendations
- Share State of Texas special needs shelter protocol, which involves five levels of patient categories.
- Investigate CMS money follows the patient waivers.

FEMA Region VII – Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska

Challenges & Barriers

Missouri

- Transportation plans and assets
- Folks don't like leaving their houses

Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa

- Communication
- Evacuation
- Where will people likely go by potential disaster-type

Next Steps

Missouri

- Technical Assistance \$\$\$

Nebraska

- Training for the Blind

Kansas

- Information Dissemination
- Training of first responders

Iowa

- Define "special needs"
- Comprehensive inventory

FEMA Region VIII – Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Challenges & Barriers

Utah

- Lack of Knowledge of the needs of people with disabilities during emergencies

North Dakota

- Inconsistent State and local communication on how to serve people with disabilities.

South Dakota

- Disability is not discussed Regionally (across the States)

Next Steps

Utah

- DHS, human services, emergency management and medical work hand in hand for continuation of operations.
- Improved web information and GIS mapping

North Dakota

- Revising their emergency operations plans.
- Train and connect grassroots with state planning.
- Collaborate with State agencies.

South Dakota

- Outlined ways to bring human services more into the emergency planning fold

FEMA Region IX – California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam

Challenges & Barriers

Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa:

- Geography (issue of island state). (Also applies to Pacific jurisdictions.)
- How to be self-sufficient when there are not bordering states?

Nevada:

- How State emergency partners can connect with local services.

Arizona:

- Embedding a component that deals with the disabled and elderly in the State's disaster plan.

California:

- Planning work to include persons with disabilities in the emergency disaster plans. Who, what, why, etc.
- How does the plan translate to implementation by first responders?

Next Steps

Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa:

- Organize at the grass roots level, employers, and naturally occurring interest groups (e.g., condo associations) around disaster planning, response and recovery.
- Develop and conduct train the trainer sessions.
- Pursue media and public education activities and strategies. How do you raise public awareness?

Hawaii:

- Look at GIS maps and discrepant terms (e.g., military, first responders).
- Explore the feasibility of using cruise ships for shelters.

Arizona:

- Connect with others who were not at the conference
- Continue efforts to incorporate the disabled into emergency planning.

California:

- Establish partnerships.
- Look at an ongoing/sustained education and information campaign.

FEMA Region X – Seattle, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,

Challenges & Barriers

Alaska

- Role of the Red Cross for special needs populations
- Supplies – Lack of updated disaster plans.
- Staffing/Volunteers – Lack of trained, available candidates

Idaho, Seattle

- Clarification of HIPAA and legally what information can be gathered and shared prior to a disaster.
- How to tailor shared information with local jurisdictions.

Oregon, Seattle

- Data scattered; set up registries.
- Counties vary in emergencies/disasters.

Next Steps

Alaska

- Contact Red Cross for purchasing supplies
- Organize training for citizens
- Identify community organizations and council members to conduct disaster/emergency education

Idaho

- Identify the disaster-prone areas
- Identify county population and survey needs
- Find disaster plans for elderly and persons with disabilities

Oregon

- Create statewide emergency plan
- Update registry
- Include registrants as phone volunteers to check-up on other people

Seattle

- Quarterly conference calls
- Define Special Needs