

NORTH DAKOTA
January 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information:

- Date Submitted: June 5, 2007
- FEMA Region: 8
- State: North Dakota
- Agency/Department/Organization: ND Department of Human Services, ND Department of Health, ND Protection & Advocacy, ND Department of Emergency Services

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- Other Delegates and additional persons added to “delegation” since the June Conference.
 - Name: Beth DeWald
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 - Name: Gwen Beckler
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- Name: Peggy Shireley
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- Check those which are applicable:

This report is submitted on behalf of the conference delegation

This report is submitted on behalf of an individual delegate

Our delegation has met by phone, shared emails, etc on the topics of focus:

II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

The steering committee meets approximately once per month to discuss work product and review progress on established goals. From January through April 2007, the steering committee met on the following dates. Sub-committees/members had contact between meetings to work on assigned tasks.

January 10, 2007

January 30, 2007

March 13, 2007

III. Emergency Planning Highlights

After the Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly a statewide steering committee was established. The steering committee is comprised of the individuals identified under item 1 – general information. The steering committee is in the process of implementing the following mission statement and goals.

Mission Statement:

Through collaboration on education, planning and guidelines we will establish a framework for safe and secure shelters and evacuation processes that are accessible and maintain independence for people with functional needs due to age or disability.

Goals:

1. Develop a system for disseminating preparedness information.
2. Develop guidelines that will assist in meeting the state planning requirements for evacuations and sheltering.

3. Develop a voluntary emergency response registry for people with functional needs due to age or disability.
4. Develop a state registry for shelters.

The steering committee has adopted a functional needs approach and adapted the C-MIST framework shared at the conference by June Kailes and Alexandra Enders. We believe this model provides a simple means of conceptualizing and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations while fostering integration and avoiding labels. It is a helpful tool for emergency managers and responders.

The ND Dept. of Emergency Services has developed and distributed planning guidelines to County and Local Emergency Planners in the areas of Evacuation and Sheltering. (See Attachments)

Training for all Emergency Managers in the State of ND was provided on 3/29/07 to create a heightened sensitivity and increase the understanding and awareness of the needs of people with disabilities and functional needs. Two members of the steering committee presented to the group. The receptiveness of the group was mixed, which indicates the need for the training.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights

The steering committee will be addressing a) in the future. The steering committee has not addressed item b) and does not have plans to do so. Much work has already been done in this area.

The Governor issued an Executive Order in 2000 that requires all State agencies to have a business continuity plan. Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations (COG/COOP) activities assure that the capability exists to continue essential state agency functions throughout any potential emergency by ensuring plans are developed to protect essential facilities, equipment, records and other assets, reduce or mitigate disruptions to operations, and achieve a timely and orderly recovery from an emergency to enable resumption of full services to customers. The State utilizes an enterprise version of Strohl's Living Disaster Recovery Planning System software that allows agencies to plan and prepare for events and emergencies that disrupt business functions.

The ND Dept. of Emergency Services also has a guide on its website to assist small to medium sized private businesses in developing a business continuity plan.

<http://www.nd.gov/des/documents/docs/buscontplan/pdf/BC%20Cover%20Page.pdf>

V. Emergency Response Highlights

Work has been completed on guidelines in the area of sheltering. Shelter types have been defined and criteria and standards have been established. A shelter survey form, which includes accessibility requirements and standards, has been developed. Typing guidelines

and shelter survey forms have been shared with county and local emergency managers who will be responsible for identifying shelters, surveying shelters, and reporting shelter information to the state. (See Attachments)

A webcast was developed to provide training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Shelter Survey Form to emergency managers to ensure understanding of accessibility standards. The webcast can be viewed at:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/webcasthtml/20070212/>

Substantial progress has also been made on establishing a state registry of shelters. The State uses WebEOC and this will serve as a repository for shelter information. Some revision and adaptation needs to occur to accommodate the shelter survey information and shelter typing that has been developed by the committee and adopted by the Department of Emergency Services. Information will need to be entered when it is received from the local and county level.

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

We have not addressed the area of Recovery as yet.

VII. Next Steps

Significant Planned Activities:

- Completion of a statewide database of shelters and their capacities
- Establishment A Statewide Registry for People with Functional Needs.

Products under Development:

- **WebEOC Shelter Board/Shelter Registry**
- **Voluntary State Registry** for Individuals with functional needs.

VIII. Other

Emergency planning and response occurs on numerous levels. One of the ongoing challenges is coordinating planning efforts to avoid duplication and/or conflicts with efforts occurring at the various levels and by various groups.