



Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities

Executive Order 13347

*An Update on Activities and Achievements
October 2006-July 2008*



Homeland
Security

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**Homeland
Security**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Washington, DC 20528**

**Individuals with Disabilities in
Emergency Preparedness**

This report is also available in alternative formats and on the
DHS Web site

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This update report is the result of a collaborative effort among members of the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC or the Council) on Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness. Members have graciously given their time and talent to develop summary descriptions of the significant work achieved by their respective departments included in this report. The work of the ICC is also informed indirectly by the expertise of many stakeholders at the Federal, state, territorial, local, and tribal levels through their expertise. The ICC extends its thanks to all who supported the work described within this report; there are far too many to be individually named.

The ICC wishes to extend its thanks to the Focus Area lead organizations for their outstanding work: the Department of Homeland Security, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; the Federal Communications Commission, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Disability Rights Office; the Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy; the Department of Transportation, Office for Civil Rights; the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Office on Disability, Office for Civil Rights, and Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities; the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; The United States Access Board; and the Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

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I. Purpose of This Update Report

Executive Order 13347 establishes the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (ICC). The ICC coordinates implementation of the policy set forth in the Executive Order, which states:

Section 1. Policy. To ensure that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism, it shall be the policy of the United States that executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government (agencies):

(a) consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves;

(b) encourage, including through the provision of technical assistance, as appropriate, consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with disabilities served by State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in emergency preparedness planning; and

(c) facilitate cooperation among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with disabilities.

Since the inception of the ICC, the emergency preparedness landscape has shifted dramatically. The catastrophic scope of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and their impact on seniors, people with disabilities, and individuals who are medically dependent further amplified the problems that are at the heart of the Council's existence and made them all the more evident. This report illustrates how the Federal partners comprising the ICC collaborated to strengthen the focus of their respective departments/agencies on issues associated with individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness, aligned the work of the ICC with our Nation's immediate and emerging preparedness needs and priorities, allowed greater cross-department/agency collaboration and coordination, and positioned the ICC as an authoritative

body and a resource for providing timely advice and timely resolution of issues.

II. Introduction

The ICC is comprised of senior leadership from Federal departments and agencies within the executive branch. These leaders have enthusiastically applied their time, resources, and knowledge addressing issues and concerns relating to emergency management and individuals with disabilities. The accomplishments cited in this report reflect the Federal executive departments' and agencies' unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of individuals with disabilities involved in emergency situations, and provide examples of the tremendous amount of work being done in support of this commitment.

III. Activities and Achievements

A. Homeland Security Policy and Operations

Lead Agency: Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL)

Key Accomplishments:

DHS CRCL facilitated the inclusion of critical information regarding disability and other special needs considerations into numerous emergency management policies, strategies, and guidelines.

- DHS CRCL provided leadership and direction to the Special Needs Workgroup established as part of the National Response Plan (NRP), now known as the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) revision processes. This workgroup was comprised of multiple subject matter experts and stakeholders from the Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, and a host of private sector and non-governmental organizations. Based upon the guidance and input gathered from these subject matter experts, disability and other special needs population considerations are now an integral component of these key planning and response strategies. Among several positive results achieved from this process was the development of a function-based definition for the term "special needs populations" as used in the emergency management context for inclusion in the NRF and revised NIMS.

- The passage of the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006*, (PKEMRA) mandated many changes within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal entities. This statute reorganized FEMA, expanded its statutory authority, and imposed new conditions and requirements on the operations of the agency. Subsequently, DHS CRCL, in collaboration with FEMA led an interagency working group that developed *Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities in the Provision of Disaster Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services* (available at: www.fema.gov/oe/reference). This Reference Guide, required by Section 689 of PKEMRA, focuses on the equal access requirements for people with disabilities that apply to points of service that address human needs, specifically the functions and activities comprising Emergency Support Function 6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services). Target audiences include disaster relief workers and service providers from Federal, state, local, and tribal governments; non-governmental; and private sector organizations.
- DHS CRCL incorporated disability and other special needs considerations into the Top Officials (TOPOFF) 4 National Exercise – the Nation’s most recent premier terrorism preparedness exercise conducted by DHS in partnership with state and local governments, as well as representatives from the international community and private sector. CRCL and the FEMA Disability Coordinator collaborated to ensure that expertise on disability and other special needs populations was integrated into the exercise. The offices successfully secured the participation of disability subject matter experts and organizational representatives as evaluators, volunteer victims, or observers in all three of the exercise venues (Arizona, Oregon, and the U.S. territory of Guam) and the National Capital Region.
- DHS CRCL collaborated with FEMA’s Grant Programs Directorate to provide recommendations regarding revisions to the fiscal year 2008 Grant Guidance in order to provide more incentive for applicants to address special needs issues throughout their proposed planning and response

activities. Recommendations to achieve this goal included the expansion of criteria currently used in rating state and local DHS grant applicants to include disability and other special needs issues.

- DHS CRCL collaborated with FEMA to revise the Registration for Disaster Services intake questionnaire to register disaster survivors seeking assistance. CRCL submitted language intended to solicit up front information about the functional needs of the individual. This information will be used to improve the referral process to supportive services and facilitate follow up by community representatives.

DHS led the work of the ICC on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities in the implementation of Executive Order 13347. By convening bi-monthly meetings of the ICC Points of Contact (POC) and bi-annual meetings of the ICC Principals, ICC members collaborated on several fronts to benefit individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness.

CRCL led efforts to strengthen the ICC in its work towards ensuring the safety and security of individuals with disabilities in all-hazard emergency and disaster situations by implementing an action plan resulting in the identification of Focus Areas with which the ICC will align its activities, thereby streamlining its work. These Focus Areas are: Policy; State, Local, and Tribal Government Outreach; Non-governmental Outreach; Emergency Communications; Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace; Emergency Transportation; Health and Human Services; Housing; and Research. CRCL schedules and chairs bi-monthly meetings of the POCs, enlists topical speakers, disseminates guidance, and serves as the Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) during disasters.

DHS CRCL provided leadership to the ICC in carrying out the following activities:

- The provision of real time monitoring and information sharing among Federal, state, local, and non-governmental partners during several 2008 response and recovery efforts to assure that the needs of the special needs populations were met and that any gaps discovered would be addressed in a timely manner.
- Conducting a 2008 table top exercise of the ICC’s ICCT. CRCL provided leadership for this exercise which involved representatives from several of the

nine focus areas and contributed to further refinement of how the ICCT will function in the future.

- The support of response activities during the 2007 California wildfires. CRCL had regular communication with on-site colleagues during this event to both gather information and to assess the need for assistance. CRCL disseminated this information on a daily basis to ICC colleagues to maintain an ability to respond to any unmet needs.
- The development of strategies for strengthening the work of the ICC during 2006-2007 based upon analysis of the important provisions within the 2007 Appropriations Act regarding people with disabilities in emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- The formation of a workgroup that provided expertise on disability and special needs issues during FEMA's development of the NRF.
- The assessment of potential impacts on travelers with disabilities resulting from the tightened airport screening procedures following the foiled airline bombing plot of August 2006. CRCL staff collaborated with the DHS's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Disability Outreach Program Director and the White House Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy to send a message to disability constituencies nationwide informing them of the allowable medical and assistive carry-on items and encouraging them to prepare for travel accordingly.

DHS CRCL participated in Congressional briefings on individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness

CRCL participated in several Congressional briefings with Representatives and/or their staff members. Briefings were held with the following: the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Representative Robert Wexler (FL-19).

DHS CRCL supported the initiatives of the FEMA Disability Coordinator.

- In the summer of 2007, pursuant to the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006*, the FEMA Disability Coordinator position was established to focus on building the response capabilities of FEMA in addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities impacted by disasters. Significant efforts have been made to achieve consistency in the way that disability considerations are factored into planning and response activities through the utilization of a growing body of Federal guidance on this topic. Such guidance includes: *Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities in the Provision of Disaster Mass Care, Housing and Human Services*, developed pursuant to Section 689 of the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006*; the Department of Justice's *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments*, Chapter 7, Emergency Management under Title II of the ADA (available at: <http://www.ada.gov/pccatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm>); and the *Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations* (available at: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2008/301.pdf>)
- The Disability Coordinator was deployed to several scenes of Federal relief operations. These deployments to the field have focused on providing guidance and arranging specialized resources to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. These actions have led to a strengthening of mass care plans and procedures used within the Federal Joint Field Office. DHS CRCL has provided real time policy guidance and communication with the Disability Coordinator during response operations.
- The Disability Coordinator has worked with senior Federal personnel and across program elements to bring disability considerations into focus by participating in regular meetings with FEMA leadership and key program managers in operational areas such as Logistics and Mass Care. The Disability Coordinator also participated as a member of the ICC, regularly consulted with representatives of the National Council on Disability, and engaged in

outreach to state, local, and tribal governments to raise awareness regarding FEMA's support to individuals with disabilities in emergencies.

- The Disability Coordinator actively consulted with organizations that represent the interests and rights of individuals with disabilities and engaged disability advocates at both the national and local levels. The Disability Coordinator also participated in the meetings of the FEMA National Advisory Council, worked with FEMA's regional advisory boards to strengthen the participation of individuals with disabilities, and worked through the FEMA Office of Public Affairs to disseminate important information to, and through, the disability media channels.
- The Disability Coordinator has taken steps to strengthen the accessibility of FEMA's disaster relief operations by providing technical assistance to staff at the Disaster Recovery Centers. Among the areas addressed were physical accessibility, communications accessibility, and 508 compliance of web resources.
- The Disability Coordinator has worked with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to build the capacity to meet the function-based needs of individuals with disabilities by developing lists of specialized disaster-related equipment for use at the regional FEMA level, and encouraging use of this equipment by states and localities. Non-governmental organizations and faith based organizations contributed to the work of the Disability Coordinator in developing caches of durable medical equipment and strengthening the staffing capacity of shelters.
- The Disability Coordinator worked to incorporate disability considerations into FEMA training and exercises and to ensure that FEMA funded training addresses individuals with disabilities in a manner consistent with the function-based planning approach taken in the NRF. She played an active role in the TOPOFF 4 national exercise, coordinating the involvement of disability stakeholders in planning and conducting the exercise.



Figure 1. Firefighters assist disaster victim player during TOPOFF 4 exercise in Portland, OR.

B. State, Local, and Tribal Government Outreach

Lead Agency: Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Key Accomplishments:

DHS engaged in outreach and provided guidance and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal government emergency planners and responders related to special needs populations.

- DHS CRCL coordinated the development of the first ever *Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations* as an annex to the DHS FEMA *Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101* (available at: <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/media/2008/301.pdf>). A product of extensive collaboration with stakeholders, the Planning Guide is designed for use by state, territorial, local, and tribal personnel in developing emergency operations plans that are inclusive of the entire community. The Planning Guide aids users in identifying and engaging special needs populations, upholding their civil rights, and addressing their function-based needs during an emergency.
- CRCL proactively provided technical assistance to emergency management personnel in 14 states, three territories, several tribal, urban, and rural jurisdictions, and to national associations. Through these consultations, CRCL advised personnel of the implications of emerging national planning and response policies, the application of relevant Federal civil rights laws in the emergency management context,

the practical application of the *Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations*, and tips for effectively engaging community representatives in planning for special needs populations.

- CRCL worked in close collaboration with FEMA and contracted subject matter experts to integrate principles of function-based planning, consideration of civil rights, and the importance of community involvement in planning into web- and classroom-based special needs training curricula for emergency planners and responders under development by FEMA grantees.
- CRCL provided guidance to tribal governments by meeting with the DHS State, Local and Tribal Governments liaison and with representatives of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium regarding emergency management and individuals with disabilities. These meetings aided CRCL in developing new opportunities to offer technical assistance to the Native American community and advanced DHS's work under the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Tribal Colleges and Universities serve as hubs for community education and provide an effective and strategic point for providing technical assistance regarding emergency preparedness and tribal members with disabilities. CRCL staff also participated in the Tribal Leaders Conference on Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness held in August, 2006.
- CRCL staff engaged in additional outreach and technical assistance activities including the following: delivered an audio conference presentation on school preparedness to the Disability Network of the Department of Education's Regional Offices on Civil Rights; delivered the keynote address at a Summit on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities, hosted by the Kentucky Office on Homeland Security; presented a paper entitled "Transforming Emergency Planning: The Application of Universal Design and Community Collaboration" at the emergency disaster preparedness conference sponsored by American

Military University in Washington, DC; presented the latest information on national emergency management planning strategies and future developments that impact individuals with disabilities at the 2007 Oklahoma Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities; participated in a conference call convened by an informal group of representatives from state and local government, select advocacy groups, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation to discuss issues relating to Limited English Proficiency and emergency planning; gave the keynote presentation at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in San Diego, California; participated in emergency preparedness planning meetings hosted by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities; and participated in the Conference of the National Emergency Management Association.

- DHS provided guidance and subject matter expertise in the area of public health preparedness related to individuals with disabilities and other special needs.
- DHS CRCL staff gave a presentation on emerging national policy landscape, civil rights considerations during emergencies, state and local planning considerations, and community engagement strategies at a meeting of the Mid America Alliance (MAA). MAA is a collaboration of ten state health departments (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming), the largest coalition of states in the country working on development of formal mutual aid arrangements between states for the sharing of resources during public health crises.
- CRCL staff presented at a meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). ASTHO received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop model guidance for State, territorial, and local health officials on the protection of at-risk populations during an influenza pandemic. CRCL staff provided subject matter expertise and input to the development of a planning guide published by ASTHO.
- CRCL has been participating in regular meetings with the DHS Office of Health Affairs Pandemic Influenza planning team to assure the inclusion of

considerations related to individuals with disabilities and other special needs in this planning.

C. Non-governmental Outreach

Lead Agency: Department of Homeland Security
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Key Accomplishments:

DHS engaged in outreach and provided guidance and technical assistance to disability consumer, service, and advocacy organizations; voluntary disaster service organizations; businesses; and institutions of higher education.

- DHS CRCL regularly engaged in informational meetings and constructive dialogues with disability consumer, service, and advocacy organization representatives. Examples of such engagement include, but are not limited to, a consultation meeting prior to the appointment of a FEMA Disability Coordinator; a meeting to provide a briefing on TOPOFF 4, as well as to gather input; and an informational briefing on a disaster case management pilot project.
- CRCL proactively collaborated with the American Red Cross (ARC), the Salvation Army, and other Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) to increase awareness and build capacity, maximize collective resources, and encourage consistency of approach in supporting individuals with disabilities and other special needs populations before, during, and after a disaster or an emergency. Examples include participation in the annual VOAD conference as a presenter and provision of input to the ARC disability-related training programs.
- CRCL also engaged in proactive outreach and collaboration with emergency management higher education programs to advance special needs considerations within curriculum development. In collaboration with the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) for FEMA's Higher Education Project, CRCL policy advisors Brian Parsons and Debra Fulmer co-authored a chapter titled, "The Paradigm Shift in Planning for Special Needs Populations," published in a text book by PERI.

- Each September, designated as National Preparedness Month, CRCL has engaged with DHS Ready.gov and DHS/FEMA Citizen Corps to provide enhanced visibility to the preparedness resources and activities publicized by DHS. For example, in conjunction with Ready.gov, CRCL provided comments to the National Fire Protection Association regarding their draft of an Evacuation Guide for People with Disabilities; partnered with representatives of the Salvation Army to support initiatives involving people with disabilities and the elderly; and collaborated with the Salvation Army in conducting outreach to community members, through faith based groups, to strengthen personal preparedness.

DHS developed and maintains strategic partnerships and ongoing dialogue with representatives of the special needs communities.

- DHS CRCL staff engaged in a wide variety of outreach activities and speaking engagements to build and strengthen relationships with non-governmental groups whose mission is related to individuals with disabilities and emergency preparedness. Some examples are: the delivery of a presentation on findings and resources related to individuals with disabilities and emergency management, with a particular focus on issues facing individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing at a conference in Lexington, Kentucky; participation on a panel presentation at the 2006 Conference of the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council, with a focus on the authorities underpinning disability civil rights in emergency preparedness and the importance of building collaboration between the disability and emergency management communities at the local level; participation in the World Congress on Disability Exposition in November 2006, where CRCL staff delivered a session entitled "Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness," which highlighted the work of CRCL and the ICC and offered personal preparedness tips to the audience; participation in a National Council on Readiness and Preparedness regional gathering of responders, business and academic leaders, and relief and faith-based organization leaders to generate input for the National Blueprint for Secure Communities; serving on a panel of subject matter experts at the 2nd

National Congress for Secure Communities, whose mission is to identify corporate and community best practices that can be demonstrated through public/private partnerships.

CRCL 2008–2009 Plans to Advance Policy of Executive Order:

- CRCL will continue to lead the ICC so that it is recognized as one of the Nation’s foremost authorities and resources on emergency planning as it relates to individuals with disabilities.
- CRCL will serve as the Disability/Special Needs Incident Community Coordination Team to facilitate the flow of information between ICC members and agencies, private sector stakeholders, Joint Field Offices, and FEMA and its Disability Coordinator.
- CRCL will maintain collaborative partnerships with private sector and non-governmental stakeholders by holding periodic meetings and discussions with non-governmental organizations and community leaders and by communicating with the public on issues relating to the intersection of homeland security, civil rights, and civil liberties.
- CRCL will continue to build collaborative working relationships with state, local, and tribal government partners through the provision of technical assistance and outreach in the form of presentations, development of policy and guidance, and contribution to training materials and curricula used to educate emergency managers.
- CRCL will work in coordination with other DHS Components on disability and other special needs population civil rights considerations by:
 - Enhancing Department-wide compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
 - Providing leadership to Section 508 coordinators of Components
 - Providing ongoing expertise and subject matter input to the National Exercise Program

D. Emergency Communications

Lead Agency: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)—Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau

Key Accomplishments:

FCC took a number of steps to promote emergency communications for persons with disabilities, including improving emergency alert and warning systems.

- In July 2007, the FCC addressed various aspects of the current Emergency Alert System (EAS) and explored steps to advance “Next Generation” EAS. The FCC required all EAS participants to be able to receive messages formatted pursuant to the Common Alert Protocol (CAP) within 180-days of FEMA’s adoption of that standard, which facilitates accessibility of EAS messages to persons with hearing disabilities and enhances their accessibility to persons with vision disabilities. In addition, the FCC allowed mandatory use of the EAS by a state governor following introduction of CAP, provided that such use is described in a state EAS plan that is reviewed by the FCC.
- In April 2008, the FCC took steps towards enabling consumers to receive emergency alerts through their wireless phones, by adopting technical requirements for a Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) – a system by which commercial mobile service providers may voluntarily transmit emergency alerts to their subscribers. The FCC required that cell phone alerts include a unique audio attention signal and vibration cadence on CMAS-capable handsets, to ensure better accessibility for people with disabilities and the elderly. The FCC will adopt two additional orders during the summer of 2008 addressing other components of the CMAS system and establishing a process for carriers to elect their participation.
- In June 2008, the FCC adopted an order to ensure that Video Relay Service (VRS) and Internet Protocol (IP) Relay users have access to emergency services that are “functionally equivalent” as access to emergency services for voice telephone users. The order requires VRS and IP Relay providers to obtain and maintain information on the physical location of their users and to automatically route emergency calls from their

users to the appropriate emergency services authorities using such information. The deadline for VRS and IP Relay providers to comply with these requirements was December 31, 2008.

The Processing, Delivery, and Dispatch of 911 Telephone Calls

- FCC has taken steps to improve the “911” system, the official national emergency number in the United States and Canada. Dialing 911 quickly connects you to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) or call center dispatcher trained to route the call to local emergency medical, fire, and law enforcement agencies. The 911 network is a vital part of our Nation’s emergency response and disaster preparedness system. Most wire line 911 systems now automatically report the telephone number and location of calls, a capability called “Enhanced 911” or “E911.”
- The FCC is responsible for overseeing the provision of Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), pursuant to Title IV of the ADA, which requires that TRS services be available nationwide so that persons with hearing and speech disabilities will have access to the Nation’s telephone system. As part of these responsibilities, the FCC is committed to ensuring that emergency calls can be placed using the Internet-based forms of TRS and that such calls are handled swiftly. There is currently an open rulemaking proceeding¹ in which the FCC has indicated that ultimately all emergency calls placed through Internet-based relay services must be processed through the dedicated Wireline E911 Network², and include the caller’s location information.

¹ See *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123, Report and Order, FCC 08- 21 (March 19, 2008).

² The “Wireline E911 Network” is defined as a “dedicated wireline network that: (1) Is interconnected with but largely separate from the public switched telephone network; (2) Includes a selective router; and (3) Is utilized to route emergency calls and related information to PSAPs, designated statewide default answering points, appropriate local emergency authorities or other emergency answering points.” 47 C.F.R. § 9.3. As the Commission has explained, the selective router receives 911 calls from the LEC central offices over dedicated trunks, queries the LEC-maintained Selective Router Database to determine the PSAP that serves the caller’s geographic area, and forwards the call to the designated PSAP along with the caller’s phone number (ANI). See *IP-Enabled Services; E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers*,

Radio and Broadcast or Cable Television Station News and Updates

Existing FCC rules require that emergency information that is provided to viewers be made accessible to persons with hearing and visual disabilities. These FCC rules also require that emergency information that is provided aurally must be made accessible to persons with hearing disabilities (either through closed captioning or some method of visual presentation), and that emergency information provided visually must be made accessible to persons with visual disabilities (usually by an aural tone alert). The FCC has taken steps to enforce the access to emergency information rules. For example, on February 22, 2006, the Commission’s Enforcement Bureau adopted a consent decree stemming from a complaint against NBC Telemundo. NBC failed to make emergency information provided during its programming accessible to persons with hearing disabilities. This emergency information consisted of a thunderstorm/tornado watch in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. This was the first consent decree resolving a complaint under the access to emergency information rules, and it provides guidance on best practices so that television stations can ensure that emergency information is made accessible.

The FCC’s General Disaster Responses: 2005–2008

- In September 2006 the FCC’s new Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) began operations. PSHSB is responsible for important aspects of public safety communications, including access to 911 and E911 services, EAS alerts and warnings, communications infrastructure protection, and disaster response.
- As a result of recommendations from the Hurricane Katrina Independent Panel that examined the impacts of this disaster on communication, the FCC took steps to improve the disaster preparedness, network reliability, and communication among first responders (e.g., police, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel). In June 2007, the FCC released an order adopting many of the recommendations of the panel, including requirements that will help ensure the resiliency, redundancy, and reliability of

WC Docket Nos. 04-36 & 05-196, First Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 20 FCC Rcd 10245, 10252, para. 15 (June 3, 2005).

communications systems, particularly the 911 and E911 networks.

FCC 2008–2009 Plans to Advance the Policies of the Executive Order

- The FCC will continue its commitment to ensuring that individuals with disabilities can access emergency communication services by maintaining participation in the efforts of the emergency preparedness and communications industries and disability advocates to facilitate such access.
- The FCC will continue its work with FEMA to ensure that public alerts and warnings are accessible to all individuals with disabilities, and will implement the provisions of the *The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act* to ensure that mobile emergency communications alerts are available for all Americans.
- The FCC will continue its collaboration with the Department of Commerce to ensure a successful transition to digital video programming, which will free up essential spectrum for interoperable public safety communications.

E. Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace

Lead Agency: Department of Labor (DOL)—Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

Key Accomplishments:

DOL continued leading the ICC Workplace Subcommittee and promoting the development and implementation of governmental and private sector workplace emergency preparedness plans that integrate the needs of individuals with disabilities.

- DOL regularly engaged in informational meetings and dialogues with disability and emergency management experts to discuss new developments pertaining to Federal and private sector workplace evacuation and preparedness techniques. This has included exchanging effective practices of Federal agency security offices and collaborating with other Federal emergency preparedness networks. There have also been discussions between Working Group members and representatives from the Department of Education funded Project Safe EV-AC, which compiled national best practices on

evacuating individuals with disabilities from the built environment.

- DOL also actively engaged with Continuity of Operations (COOP) personnel to raise awareness regarding integrating the needs of employees with disabilities in COOP planning. This includes collaboration and exchange of information between representatives of Federal security offices from the Departments of Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture on effective practices for ensuring coordination between security management, disability, and COOP offices.
- Building upon its publication of *Preparing the Workplace for Everyone: Accounting for the Needs of People with Disabilities* in 2005, DOL continued the dissemination of the framework to Federal officials in national, regional, and field offices. As of July 2008, 6,834 copies of the publication were distributed. Next steps include developing strategies for implementing the framework in the private sector.
- DOL also conducted an in-depth review of existing stairway evacuation policies and practices of Federal agencies (General Services Administration and Department of Agriculture) as well as federally funded projects, including the Department of Education funded Project Safe EV-AC. The Subcommittee then drafted an addendum to the framework on stairwell evacuation, which has been published and is available on the ODEP website.

DOL 2008–2009 Plans to Advance Policy of Executive Order:

- The Workplace Subcommittee will continue to broadly disseminate the *Framework of Guidelines*, as well as any addendums developed based on emerging issues. Future work of this Subcommittee will likely include a document to assist stakeholders in implementing the framework (e.g., determining the key personnel, communicating important information, considering the most appropriate time to take action, and the most effective means to bring about change).
- The Workplace Subcommittee will continue to re-evaluate its activities and approach to emergency preparedness in the workplace for individuals with disabilities. The Subcommittee will continue to

proactively move the *Framework of Guidelines* into the hands of those who can benefit most from it and seek creative and innovative ways of ensuring that workplace preparedness, response, and recovery plans incorporate the needs of people with disabilities.

F. Emergency Transportation

Lead Agency: Department of Transportation (DOT)
Departmental Office of Civil Rights

Key Accomplishments:

DOT has coordinated workshops, provided guidance, and funded research on developing and coordinating transit and transportation evacuation plans that are inclusive of special needs populations.

- Connecting Communities Public Transportation Emergency Preparedness Workshops, sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and TSA, are designed to coordinate the assets and specialized resources of transit and transportation systems with their state, county, and local response and emergency management agencies. These workshops were enhanced in the summer of 2007 to add attention to the needs of people with disabilities and other special needs in emergencies. The workshops are being conducted on an ongoing basis.
- *Evacuating Populations with Special Transportation Needs: Routes to Effective Evacuation Planning Primer Series* is a primer created by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that provides findings, lessons learned, and best practices that aid in developing evacuation plans for those with special movement requirements, including the elderly, those with medical conditions, transit-dependent populations, pets and service animals, and people being held by law enforcement officials. DOT released this publication in the summer of 2008.
- DOT has also worked diligently on the following research and demonstration products, funded through the Transportation Equity Research Program and administered by the FTA:
 - A cooperative agreement has been awarded to a coalition of academic institutions and community-based organizations led by the University of New Orleans to develop technical assistance tools, including an instructional manual and a professional development course, that will assist transportation planners and community organizations in assisting transportation-disadvantaged persons in emergencies.
 - The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Council was awarded a cooperative agreement to prepare a seven-county emergency preparedness and evacuation plan with a focus on evacuating special needs populations. The plan, as well as lessons learned from the planning process, will be shared with other metropolitan planning organizations.
 - The Arlington County, Virginia, government received a cooperative agreement to synthesize its existing registries of people that use demand response transportation and to reach out to additional residents that are not currently on a registry, but may need transportation assistance in an emergency. The end product will be a more comprehensive and accurate registry of residents who can be contacted during an emergency to ensure that their safety and transportation needs are being met.
- DOT's Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility's Emergency Transportation Workgroup has prepared a 2007-2010 action plan to develop technical assistance tools; conduct research and demonstration model projects; meet with external stakeholders; and participate in trainings, tests, and exercises, among other activities.
- Workgroup members participated in a two-day meeting hosted by DHS CRCL and FEMA that brought together Federal Government, local government, and non-profit stakeholders working on emergency preparedness for populations with special needs. This group provided FEMA with feedback on the agency's draft *Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs Populations*.

United We Ride participants from DOT's FTA also helped draft the Guide's provisions on emergency transportation and evacuation.

DOT's FTA provided or assisted in the development of the following best practices and guidance:

- *Disaster Response and Recovery Resource for Transit Agencies*, August, 2006. This document provides best practices and links to specific resources for transit agencies concerning emergency preparedness, disaster response, and disaster recovery. Section 4.6 of the resource provides guidance on providing emergency services to people with special needs. See <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/Publications>.
- *Strategies in Emergency Preparedness for Transportation-Dependent Populations and Transportation and Emergency Preparedness Checklist*. These documents highlight essential strategies for providing safe and efficient transportation for persons requiring mobility assistance in the event of an emergency. It was developed by the National Consortium on Transportation and Human Services Coordination with assistance from the FTA. See <http://www.emergencyprep.dot.gov>.
- *Transportation Equity in Emergencies: A Review of the Practices of State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Transit Agencies in 20 Metropolitan Areas*. This May 2007 report reviews the extent to which transit providers, metropolitan planning organizations, and state departments of transportation, in selected metropolitan areas in the United States and Puerto Rico, are identifying and addressing the needs of populations that may be especially vulnerable in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. This report also provides resources that should assist officials in these and other metropolitan regions to better incorporate attention to populations with specific mobility needs into their ongoing emergency preparedness planning activities. In conjunction with the report, maps of 20 metropolitan regions were developed using geographic information system technology. These maps highlight areas with high concentrations of minority and low-income populations, persons with limited English proficiency, and households without personal vehicles. These maps should be helpful to state departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies in identifying and assisting populations that may need assistance in an emergency evacuation. See http://www.fta.dot.gov/civilrights/civil_rights_6343.html.
- National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Peer Exchange Series on State and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Issues: Disaster Response in Transportation Planning. This peer exchange sponsored by the FTA and FHWA sought to identify ways in which disaster response, including for people with special needs, could be more effectively integrated into state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations transportation planning. Participants discussed the challenges of providing aid and mobility to populations with special needs and provided recommendations for improvement. The proceedings of this peer exchange were published in September 2007 and can be found at: http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=8295.
- The FTA developed a variety of training materials, exercises, and workshops on emergency preparedness for populations with specific needs and these materials were incorporated into the Connecting Communities Public Transportation Emergency Preparedness workshops organized by the National Transit Institute. The workshops bring together transit agency personnel, emergency management agency staff, and first responders so that agencies can coordinate and prepare for emergencies in a specific metropolitan region. The training materials were presented at Connecting Community workshops in Columbus, Ohio, in June 2007, and Seattle, Washington, in September 2007.
- Workgroup members made presentations on identifying and assisting populations with special needs at the meetings of the Transportation Research Board in November 2006 and March 2007; the National Conference on Disaster Planning for the Carless Society in February 2007; the Community

Transportation Association of America's Annual EXPO in May 2007; and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials and Congressional Black Caucus Annual Braintrust in September 2007.

DOT Plans to Advance Policy of Executive Order (2008–2009)

- The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility's Emergency Transportation Workgroup anticipates that workgroup members will continue to conduct stakeholder outreach and provide technical assistance to promote the objectives of the workgroup.
- The NCHRP anticipates publishing a report that analyzes the strategies, tools, and concepts used for the planning, design, operation, and management of transportation facilities and assets during an emergency evacuation. This report will include a section on strategies used to evacuate populations with special needs. Representatives from FHWA and the Department's FTA serve on the steering committee for this project.
- The FHWA is currently developing an online tutorial that provides a set of NIMS compliant principles of evacuation planning for use by novice and experienced planners employed by DOT or highway agencies at the state, local, and tribal levels in the development of evacuation plans. These evacuation planning principles are expected to be described and presented in a web-based, self-paced tutorial format that will show applicability in preparing evacuation plans involving all hazards in both notice and no-notice circumstances. The Principles will use existing language in use by and recognized in the emergency management community and found in such documents or places such as the NIMS, the NRF, FEMA guidance documents, and FEMA Emergency Management Institute courses.
- The Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights and the DOL's Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policy, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the Disability.gov website. This website managed by

DOL implements former President Bush's Executive Memorandum directing Federal agencies to work together to develop a comprehensive Federal website that serves people with disabilities. The mission of Disability.gov addresses and complements objectives of the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. DOT will provide DOL technical support and assistance. This includes serving as an active partner to DOL and other agency partners in identifying and addressing emergency transportation preparedness planning, coordination, and response to the needs of disabled populations throughout the country; and providing appropriate links to Disability.gov from DOT's website.



Figure 2. Person using a wheelchair registers for disaster assistance at a shelter.

G. Health and Human Services

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—Office on Disability

Key Accomplishments:

HHS has made several improvements in the areas of planning, grants and guidance, research, accommodations, service delivery, access to medical supplies, training, development of tools and dissemination of information to “at-risk” populations.

- HHS has taken steps toward creating a uniform definition of “at-risk” populations that will be consistent with other terminology, such as “special needs” or “vulnerable” populations.
- HHS and the ARC have developed a Shelter Intake and Assessment Tool to ensure that at-risk individuals are referred to the most appropriate shelter setting.

The tool, now in use at all general population shelters, facilitates the sheltering of people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate, and the provision of necessary aids and services to them in the shelter environment.

- The HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality convened a subject-matter expert panel to identify the gaps and barriers related to providing home care in a public health emergency.
- HHS established, within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Office for At-risk Individuals, Behavioral Health, and Human Services Coordination (ABC). This office provides a focal point for coordinating issues related to at-risk populations. Examples of activities undertaken by ASPR ABC include: contributing to an ESF-8 Concept of Operations, Standard Operation Procedures, and hurricane playbook; developing briefing papers for scenario playbooks addressing the effects of the emergency on at-risk individuals; establishing integrated systems to address the availability of durable medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and support services that at-risk individuals and their service animals may need; and distributing a matrix of available training opportunities for first responders and health care personnel working with at-risk individuals.
- The Office of the Surgeon General has formed five new preconfigured response teams that, following a public health emergency or urgent unmet public health need, focus on ensuring access to existing health and human resources for special needs individuals, including those with disabilities. These Services Access Teams conduct needs assessments; plan/develop culturally sensitive interventions; advocate for, and connect clients to, needed resources; coordinate clinical care; provide continuity/transition management; manage psychosocial issues; assist with re-integration; and assure confidentiality.
- In the area of grants and guidance to state and local entities, the HHS Office on Disability, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of

Preparedness and Response, has developed a toolkit to provide planners with concrete information and guidance on accounting for the needs of at-risk individuals, including persons with disabilities. The Community Planning Toolkit for State Emergency Preparedness Managers is available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/od/disabilitytoolkit/index.html>.

- On issues relating to medical supplies and countermeasures, the FMS cache of equipment and supplies has been expanded to include accommodations for at-risk individuals, such as bariatric patient lifts, wheelchair and walker accessibility aisles, toilet seat risers, and supplies for the care of infants. The checklist for site inspection/approval now includes accessibility items such as wheelchairs and walker accessible aisles. The FMS cache was also expanded to include a wider range of medications for managing issues for patients with behavioral health disorders.
- The CDC funded Centers for Public Health Preparedness across the Nation to conduct activities such as workshops, outreach programs, tabletop exercises, seminars, online courses, and academic and professional programs targeting the preparedness and response needs of vulnerable populations in a public health emergency.
- The CDC/Influenza Coordinating Unit has worked with ASTHO to develop evidence-based model guidance on the protection of at-risk populations during an influenza pandemic.
- CDC also engaged with tribal nations in 2008 to assess why many American Indians and Alaska Natives would face additional challenges in a pandemic. Based on these findings, CDC subsequently led a series of Tribal Engagement meetings with tribal and community leaders to learn from them how to best reach their communities and train them in pandemic preparedness and developing emergency plans.
- HHS, through its Administration on Aging, conducted a series of webinars consisting of interactive dialogue between Federal, state, and local emergency preparedness planners and supportive services

providers, with a particular focus on the needs of older, at-risk individuals.

- The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), has partnered with the ACF Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) to provide disability specific expertise and to develop training and support for its Disaster Case Management program. This partnership has resulted in more thorough planning for people with disabilities in all aspects of human services response.
- The HHS/ACF/ADD has worked closely with their developmental disabilities network grantees and their state emergency management partners to connect people with disabilities and emergency responders. This partnership was established through a Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities, held in June 2006. Many states reported the progress they made in developing state response plans that are inclusive of everyone's needs. These reports can be found at <http://www.add-idea-em.org>.

The HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

- HHS OCR created an Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response website containing information on protecting civil rights and health information privacy in emergency situations. This website may be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/special/emergency/index.html>. OCR also developed a web-based tool to help emergency planners make advance planning decisions about disclosures of health information for public health emergency preparedness in compliance with the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule*. This tool is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/special/emergency/>.
- HHS, in coordination with FEMA, developed an Evacuation and Transportation Assessment Tool which will facilitate the evacuation of individuals with disabilities in appropriate, accessible transportation to evacuation sites that are consistent

with their needs. Both HHS and FEMA have agreed to use this Tool in their evacuation activities.

- OCR provided technical assistance to emergency planners in state and local government agencies to ensure that special needs population and health information privacy were considered in emergency planning. OCR also conducted civil rights and health information privacy in emergency preparedness outreach by: presenting at conferences and meetings; meeting with grassroots and advocacy organizations; sharing information with state departments of public health, mental health, and minority health, and with hospital associations; and offering technical expertise to assist in the response to actual emergencies. This outreach particularly focused on health information privacy, on the identification of needs of persons with disabilities, and on effective and efficient ways to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.

HHS Plans to Advance Policy of Executive Order (2008–2009)

- HHS ASPR will research and evaluate best practices in the area of public health emergency response regarding Pandemic Influenza and will continue the practice of providing this information to state, local, and tribal government emergency planners.
- HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation currently has a project underway to examine communication and outreach strategies related to emergency preparedness for at-risk populations. The project will identify and disseminate promising practices in outreach and communication. A literature review, catalogue of publicly available communications materials, and case studies in four states, will all inform and contribute to the final report.
- HHS ADD will continue to monitor and support networks between their grantees and state and local emergency planners/responders to assure inclusion of concerns relative to individuals with disabilities. ADD will also continue to support and manage the ADD-Idea website, to include the most up-to-date emergency preparedness resources for individuals with disabilities and family members. The partnership between ADD and OHSEPR will be maintained to

share innovative practices with Federal Government partners.



Figure 3. Workers build a ramp to create a wheelchair accessible manufactured home.

H. Housing

Lead Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Note: The area of disaster-related accessible housing is supported by the work of the U.S. Access Board (the Board).

Key Accomplishments:

- HUD engaged in education, outreach, provision of guidance, and technical assistance to disability consumers, architects, builders, code inspectors, and others involved in the design and construction of multifamily housing.
- From fiscal year 2006 through the present, HUD's Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST (Fair Housing Instruction, Resources, Support and Technical Guidance) staff conducted classes in: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, California, and Washington. The FIRST training featured one or more of the 11 training modules covering the Fair Housing Act, other disability-rights laws, and the technical requirements of designing and constructing accessible routes, public and common-use areas, kitchens, and bathrooms. Accessibility FIRST has included Section 3 training in its curriculum.
- A significant part of HUD's Gulf Coast effort has been to advise FEMA on physical accessibility issues as FEMA creates mobile home communities to provide temporary housing for the individuals

and families displaced by the hurricanes. HUD provided FEMA with a design for accessible mobile homes, provided guidelines on how to make mobile home communities accessible, and worked with FEMA to establish a standard for all manufactured housing that requires at least 14 percent of such homes be accessible to persons with disabilities.

- HUD awarded \$100,000 each to two private fair housing organizations in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to provide fair housing services to their residents. The Advocacy Center in New Orleans collaborated with the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center and Human Development Center to provide fair housing services to persons with disabilities. The University of Mississippi in Hattiesburg collaborated with the Mississippi Protection Advocacy System, Mississippi Home Corporation, and other community groups to provide extensive education and outreach services to persons with disabilities, including written and electronic workshop materials.

Initiatives of the U.S. Access Board

- Following Hurricane Katrina, the Board determined that there is a need to supplement its facility guidelines to better address emergency transportable housing. In August 2007, the Board organized an Advisory Committee on Emergency Transportable Housing. The committee includes members from disability groups, industry and core groups, and government agencies. This advisory committee is developing recommendations to the Board on supplementing its guidelines to specifically cover emergency transportable housing.
- As a member of the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR), the Board took a lead role in planning a two-day conference entitled, "State of the Art Conference on Technologies and Strategies for Physical Transfers of Individuals with Motor Impairments." This conference featured a speaker on transfer issues during emergency evacuation. Following the plenary was a series of break-out groups that developed recommendations for future Federal research with one discussion focusing on emergency response issues.

I. Research

Lead Agency: Department of Education—Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)

Key Accomplishments:

NIDRR carried out its mission of assessing, coordinating, and promoting Federal research related to emergency preparedness and individuals with disabilities.

- NIDRR published an online document, *Emergency Management Research and People with Disabilities: A Resource Guide*. This guide provides a listing and description of research projects funded by the Federal Government and nonfederal entities, research recommendations that have resulted from conferences on emergency management and disability, and a bibliography of relevant research publications. The guide is the culmination of cooperative efforts by NIDRR, the ICC Research Subcommittee, and the New Freedom Initiative Subcommittee of the ICDR. The guide is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/index.html>.
- NIDRR awarded a grant to West Virginia University to conduct research on emergency evacuation and individuals with disabilities. The Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project, “Evacuation Methodology and Understanding Behavior of Persons with Disabilities in Disasters: A Blueprint for Emergency Planning Solutions,” totals \$1,329,015 over three years. The grant, now transferred to Louisiana State University, is surveying people with disabilities, the elderly, emergency managers, and local service providers to understand emergency evacuation experiences and behaviors. They then will develop a pilot and disseminate best practice guidance.
- NIDRR awarded a grant to CreateAbility Concepts, Inc. to focus on emergency communications. The Phase II Small Business Innovation Research, “Sound Alert: A Centralized System Capable of Alerting People Who Are Deaf or Hearing Impaired to Critical Sounds in Their Environment,” totals \$500,000 over two years. This project’s research and development results in a comprehensive system that delivers natural warning and communication mechanisms for people with hearing loss. The SoundAlert system offers a unique approach to enable individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to: 1) initiate and receive emergency communications; 2) receive alerts in the workplace or home environments on a single, pocket-sized device through innovative sound discrimination techniques able to identify specific sounds with accuracy; and 3) combine this functionality with supplementation or replacement of other alerting technologies for convenience on the same single platform. The system enables outbound and inbound communication with emergency services in response to such events as evacuation or rescue information when needed, thus alleviating a major concern of this population for their personal safety.
- NIDRR awarded a grant to the Georgia Institute of Technology to conduct research on wireless technologies. The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) for Wireless Technologies totals \$4.75 million over five years. Its mission is to: 1) promote equitable access to, and use of wireless technologies by, persons with disabilities; and 2) encourage adoption of Universal Design in future generations of wireless technologies. The RERC has numerous research and development projects. Two development projects, “Development of Wireless Emergency Communications” and “Ensuring Access to Emergency Assistance,” focus on the area of wireless emergency communications technology to be used by emergency personnel to contact individuals with disabilities and by people with disabilities to signal the need for assistance.
- In 2004, The Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools (OSDFS) required its Emergency Response and Crisis Management/Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools grantees to develop plans that take into consideration the communication, transportation, and medical needs of individuals with disabilities in their school district. OSDFS reviews emergency management plans and final reports submitted to identify successful procedures related to the evaluation or sheltering of individuals with special

needs or disabilities. OSDFS worked with school-based experts to develop an advanced topic training session, “Emergency Management Considerations for Students and Staff with Disabilities.” The session was piloted in August 2007, then refined, and is now available on line at <http://rems.ed.gov>.

- OSDFS conducted a webinar on special considerations and successful procedures in the area of sheltering and evacuating individuals with special needs or disabilities. This includes collaboration with the DHS, HHS, and various state and local experts.

***Plans to Advance the Policy of Executive Order
(2008-2009)***

The Research Subcommittee plans to continue its mission of assessing, coordinating, and promoting Federal research related to emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities, with particular emphasis on encouraging interagency support of such research.

Appendix A

Text of Executive Order 13347

Federal Register/Vol. 69, No. 142/Monday,

July 26, 2004/Presidential Documents

Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency

Preparedness

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen emergency preparedness with respect to individuals with disabilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To ensure that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism, it shall be the policy of the United States that executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government (agencies):

(a) consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves;

(b) encourage, including through the provision of technical assistance, as appropriate, consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with disabilities served by State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in emergency preparedness planning; and

(c) facilitate cooperation among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 2. Establishment of Council. (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Homeland Security for administrative purposes, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (the "Council"). The Council shall consist exclusively of the following members or their designees:

- (i) the heads of executive departments, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator of General Services, the

Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Commissioner of Social Security; and

- (ii) any other agency head as the Secretary of Homeland Security may, with the concurrence of the agency head, designate.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall chair the Council, convene and preside at its meetings, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Council, which shall consist exclusively of Council members.

(c) A member of the Council may designate, to perform the Council functions of the member, an employee of the member's department or agency who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President, or a full-time employee serving in a position with pay equal to or greater than the minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule.

Sec. 3. Functions of Council. (a) The Council shall:

- (i) coordinate implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order;
- (ii) whenever the Council obtains in the performance of its functions information or advice from any individual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time Federal employee, obtain such information and advice only in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation; and
- (iii) at the request of any agency head (or the agency head's designee under section 2(c) of this order) who is a member of the Council, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security declines the request, promptly review and provide advice, for the purpose of furthering the policy set forth in section 1, on a proposed action by that agency.

(b) The Council shall submit to the President each year beginning 1 year after the date of this order, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, a report that describes:

- (i) the achievements of the Council in implementing the policy set forth in section 1;

- (ii) the best practices among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals for emergency preparedness planning with respect to individuals with disabilities; and
- (iii) recommendations of the Council for advancing the policy set forth in section 1.

Sec. 4. General. (a) To the extent permitted by law:

- (i) agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council for the performance of its functions under this order; and
 - (ii) the Department of Homeland Security shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council.
- (b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 22, 2004

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Appendix B

Acronyms

ABC	Office for At-risk Individuals, Behavioral Health, and Human Services Coordination	ICDR	Interagency Committee on Disability Research
ACF	Administration for Children and Families	IP	Internet Protocol
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	MAA	Mid America Alliance
ADD	Administration on Developmental Disabilities	NBC	NBC Telemundo License Co.
ARC	American Red Cross	NCHRP	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
ASPR	Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response	NIDRR	National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research
ASTHO	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials	NIMS	National Incident Management System
CAP	Common Alert Protocol	NRF	National Response Framework
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	NRP	National Response Plan
CMAS	Commercial Mobile Alert System	OCR	Office for Civil Rights
COOP	Continuity of Operations	ODEP	Office of Disability Employment Policy
CRCL	Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	OHSEPR	Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response
DHS	Department of Homeland Security	OSDFS	Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools
DOL	Department of Labor	POC	Points of Contact
DOT	Department of Transportation	PSAP	Public Safety Answering Point
EAS	Emergency Alert System	PSHSB	Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
FCC	Federal Communications Commission	RERC	Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	TOPOFF	Top Officials
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration	TRS	Telecommunications Relay Service
FMS	Federal Medical Station	TSA	Transportation Security Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration	VOAD	Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services	VRS	Video Relay Service
HUD	Housing and Urban Development		
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities		
ICCT	Incident Community Coordination Team		

About the ICC

DHS CRCL oversees the implementation of Executive Order 13347, which was signed by President Bush in July 2004. This Executive Order is designed to ensure the safety and security of individuals of disabilities in all-hazard emergency and disaster situations. To this end, the Executive Order created an Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The ICC is comprised of senior leadership

- (1) Emergency Communications;
- (2) Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace;
- (3) Emergency Transportation;
- (4) Health and Human Services;
- (5) Homeland Security Policy and Operations;

from more than 25 Federal departments and agencies. Its mission is to ensure that people with disabilities and their specific needs are fully integrated into all aspects of our nation's emergency management system; including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Secretary of Homeland Security is the Chair of the ICC, and has delegated that role to the DHS Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The Council has concentrated its work in nine major areas:

- (6) Housing;
- (7) Nongovernmental Outreach;
- (8) Research; and
- (9) State, Local and Tribal Government Outreach

ICC Participants

Department of Agriculture

Department of Commerce

Department of Defense

Department of Education

Department of Energy

Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of Interior

Department of Justice

Department of Labor

Department of State

Department of Transportation

Department of the Treasury

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

General Services Administration

Office of Personnel Management

Social Security Administration

Access Board

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Federal Communications Commission

National Council on Disability

President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Securities Exchange Commission

White House Office of Domestic Policy



Homeland Security

For more information about the ICC, visit www.disabilitypreparedness.gov or www.dhs.gov/disabilitypreparednessicc.

E-mail: disability.preparedness@dhs.gov