

National Organization on Disability

Founded in 1982, the National Organization on Disability (NOD) promotes the full participation and contribution of America's 54 million men, women, and children with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Emergency Preparedness Initiative

The terrorist attacks on the nation in the fall of 2001 awakened all Americans to the need to prepare in advance for emergencies, both man-made and natural.

NOD responded by launching the Emergency Preparedness Initiative (EPI) in November 2001. EPI raises awareness about the functional needs of the nation's disability community and helps ensure people with disabilities are included in emergency planning at all levels.

EPI continues to advocate the disability community's integral participation in emergency planning and response.

EPI Goals

Recognizing that people with disabilities have a great stake in the effectiveness of public programs aimed at preparing for and responding to all types of disasters, EPI's goals are to:

1. Encourage the emergency management field to consider the varied needs of people with disabilities in all levels of their planning and response activities, and to actively involve members of this community in their efforts; and
2. To raise the awareness of people with disabilities about what they can do to prepare for their own safety and survival during emergencies, and to encourage them to become partners with emergency management professionals.



Partners in Preparedness



PARTNERS

in

PREPAREDNESS



National Organization on Disability
Emergency Preparedness Initiative

888 16th Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006

Tel: 202-293-5960

TDD: 711 Relay

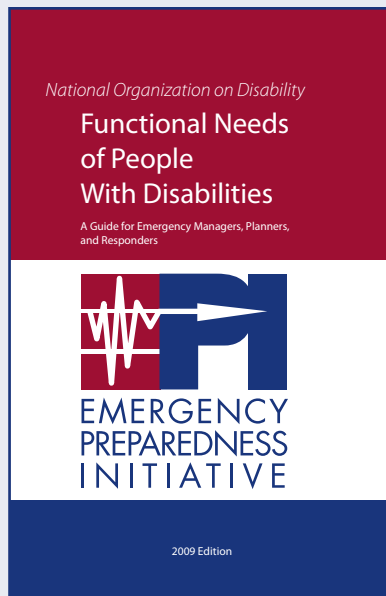
Fax: 202-355-1399

Email: epi@nod.org

<http://www.nod.org/emergency>

EPI maintains a robust Website offering a range of information, including:

- A downloadable version of *Functional Needs for People With Disabilities: A Guide for Emergency Managers, Planners, and Responders*
- Official reports, studies, and research on emergency preparedness and people with disabilities
- A collection of emergency preparedness resources for people with functional needs, such as preparedness checklists, online publications and guides, and links to other resources



EPI Projects

EPI is committed to providing resources and information for emergency managers, planners, and responders; people with disabilities; and community and workplace leaders. Activities include:

Conferences/Forums

EPI, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security and the National Capital Region, held the first Conference on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities in September 2004. Material from the conference is available on the EPI Website.

EPI also participates in several conferences and forums each year, articulating the need for better collaboration between the emergency management and disability communities.

Surveys

NOD commissioned Harris Interactive Inc. to conduct three surveys related to emergency preparedness. In 2001 and 2003, the surveys measured how prepared people with disabilities are; in 2004 a survey of emergency management agencies assessed how the needs of people with disabilities are being incorporated into preparedness training, plans, and response. Findings are posted on the EPI Website.

Publications

Functional Needs for People With Disabilities: A Guide for Emergency Managers, Planners, and Responders highlights key disability concerns and resources for officials and others responsible for emergency planning in their communities.

In addition, EPI has released a series of five brochures that address disability-specific preparedness information. The series, "Prepare Yourself," includes general awareness and planning tips for people with mobility, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.

Planning

EPI works closely with local, state, and federal emergency managers, the disability community, advocates, and other experts in the field to identify model practices, share resources, and identify solutions to unique emergency planning considerations for people with disabilities.

EPI Partnerships

EPI partners include:

- American Red Cross
- Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network
- Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency management offices and organizations
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- Journal of Emergency Management
- National Emergency Management Association
- National Emergency Management Resource Center
- National Fire Protection Association
- National League of Cities