

NATI ALERTS

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR THE VULNERABLE

Often disaster preparedness plans fail to serve or under-serve those most vulnerable. Emergency Management (EM) will benefit from Triad programs locating, mapping, and planning senior assistance.

“One of the challenges of disaster planning and management is to overcome the natural tendency organizations have to maintain their independence and autonomy and encourage them to have a broader interorganizational and community-wide focus.” -Dennis S. Mileti, *Disasters by Design*

Linking Triad to Emergency Management:

Triad provides a direct link to communities and vulnerable people they serve. Incorporating Triad into a disaster preparedness system builds capacity and effectiveness of response to the human service issue that result from disasters

Link Triad to the Emergency Operations Center through the same EM branch as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and others

Triad can work with FEMA to ensure that recovery resources and services reach seniors, and that efforts are not being duplicated

Triad and Emergency Management:

Create pre-event agreements to provide services in response to a disaster: include purpose of agreement, statements about organizations involved, task list of duties and services Triad will provide, a list of government provisions in support of that function, joint responsibilities, how and when agreement terms become activated, costs covered and how costs are documented and paid, and signatures of all parties concerned

Bring Triad and Emergency Management together to discuss Triad resources and services, emergency planning and developing emergency roles—Include Triad representatives in meetings that involve emergency management issues and task forces

Involve Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health, and Area Agencies on Aging, United Way, Volunteer Center, Catholic Charities, Food banks, Health Clinic, Homeless Service Provider, Jewish Family and Children’s Services, Salvation Army, Neighborhood Watch, and Inter-faith providers

Become the conduit with EM to ensure that local communities are informed and involved in emergency management activities by organizing teams of volunteers to do the door-to-door outreach necessary following disasters

Triad as a Resource:

Triad works with incapacitated seniors through various Triad programs and know where seniors are!

Triad often works with Meals on Wheels, Community Emergency Response Teams (C.E.R.T.) and Area Agency on Aging to map seniors to assist during disasters, monitor abuse, scams, etc.

Triad can assist with service accessibility, personal care support, distribution of food water and other supplies, review pre-charted vulnerabilities of community members for: removal from dangerous areas, medication levels, electricity, etc.

Triad is a local organization with a primary mission to provide services to specific groups of people, such as seniors, the disabled, and cognitively compromised—Alzheimer’s, for example

Utilize the Triad web site section (if applicable) to offer emergency planning tips and how individuals can get involved

Involve EM and Triad in planning, training, exercises, creating service team collaboratives, geographic cluster groups, and coordinated response support plans

Identify Triad leadership to serve as a single point of contact for EM and add the leader to the Operational Area Council

Develop a Disaster Collaborative Group of volunteers active in pre and post disasters—cover responsibilities and services of each group

Identify an ongoing network such as Citizen Corps Council—for community leadership (if applicable) in your jurisdiction that brings together volunteers within the community—Triad’s goal may be to tie into an existing group

Create a hierarchy of services to provide should a shortage of resources occur (What can you do without?)

Plan for inter-communication before, during, and after a disaster, including alternate meeting points

The Disaster Checklist:

- Include people living both independently and in dependent care facilities
- Identify needs in the community and the support necessary to meet them
- Arrange personal care assistance if in-home care support is unavailable
- Get food, water and other necessary supplies distributed to seniors and people with disabilities living alone or in isolated areas
- Provide meals for people dependent on home-delivered meals if deliveries are interrupted
- Help seniors and people with disabilities fill prescriptions for life-sustaining and other medications, and replace vital personal equipment (e.g. hearing aides, wheelchairs, mobility aides, batteries) damaged or lost in the disaster
- Ensure that dependent care facilities serving seniors and people with disabilities have disaster plans and are taking measures to support the population they serve in disasters
- Contact isolated and homebound seniors and people with disabilities to check on their status and to support them in getting the services they need
- Check on and, if necessary, evacuate people who cannot be self-sufficient for 5-7 days following a major disaster—this includes people who are severely disabled, ill, on life support systems, frail elderly, and people in dependent care
- Relocate people dependent on electricity to maintain life support systems during power outages: support elderly mobility needs and disabled persons with accessible transportation resources—Triad can help transport people during evacuation, or with transportation to disaster service areas
- Provide information and instructions slowly for individuals who have difficulty understanding information (such as presented on television or radio)
- Supplement the response to emergency medical needs through volunteer and/or staff trained in first aid and emergency response, and/or by providing medical supplies
- Support persons with special dietary needs and help with distribution of food and water to at-risk, homebound, or disabled persons: volunteer kitchens, meal programs and food pantries support mass feeding and food distribution efforts in a disaster—coordinate efforts prior to a disaster
- Provide important information on community resources that connects people who need help with available services and assistance
- Create emergency supply kits for seniors

Links to Emergency Services Websites:

- American Red Cross: Guidance and resources for consumers and professionals.
<http://www.redcross.org/more/commserv/seniors.html>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health and Emergency Preparedness and Response.
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Primary government website for emergency preparedness and response; Current status of nationally designated emergencies.
<http://www.fema.gov>
- Government Website: Consumer guidance on emergency preparedness.
<http://www.ready.gov>
- Independent Living Centers, typically non-residential, private, non-profit, consumer-controlled, community-based organizations providing services and advocacy by and for persons with all types of disabilities.
<http://www.ilusa.com/links/ilcenters.htm>
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Homeland Security Council. Guidance for consumers, professionals on food security, emergency preparedness.
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/topics/biosecurity.htm>
- USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Distribution Division. Supplies food to disaster relief organizations for mass feeding or household distribution.
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fd-disasters>
- US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Emergency Preparedness.
<http://www.oep-ndms.dhhs.gov/>
- Citizen Corps
<http://www.citizencorps.org>



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