

EMERGENCY PREP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University's **Emergency Preparedness Mission** is to develop and implement emergency preparedness-related research, accessible information, services, and training and technical assistance with and for people with functional needs.

The Institute collaborates with local communities, the city (Philadelphia), the state (Pennsylvania), and national organizations to provide information and services that improve the safety and well-being of individuals with functional needs and their families in emergency or disaster.

What is Emergency Preparedness?

Emergency management planning and preparedness can cover a wide range of incidents. An "emergency" is defined as an exceptional event that exceeds the capacity of normal resources and organization to cope. All emergencies are by definition dangerous, which means that the potential loss of life is involved. Four levels of emergency can be identified as follows: (Alexander 2002)

- **Routine Dispatch Problem**—the most minor of emergencies, involving first responders;
- **Incident**—any emergency a jurisdiction can handle without needing to call in outside help;
- **Disaster**—also called a catastrophe, an incident involving substantial destruction and mass casualty;
- **National (International) Disaster**—a disaster of substantial magnitude and seriousness.

Emergency preparedness must consider the needs of individuals with functional needs in planning for, responding to, recovering from, and preventing future emergencies.

"Don't plan for easy. Plan for REAL." (Craig Fugate, FEMA)

Being prepared for an emergency is crucial for you and your family, in your home, place of business, school and community.

The Institute's initiatives include:

- **Training** first responders
- **Addressing** the communication needs of people with disabilities in an emergency
- **Collecting and distributing** durable medical equipment in response to disasters.
- **Promoting** national efforts regarding assistive technology (AT) reuse and emergency preparedness

Being prepared for an emergency takes planning, foresight, cooperation, and diligence.

"Get a Kit. Make a Plan. Be Informed." - visit readypa.org

It is essential for people with disabilities, their families and support systems to prepare emergency plans carefully based on their unique needs—proper planning could be lifesaving.

CONTACT: iod@temple.edu • 215-204-1356

1755 N. 13th Street
Student Center, Room 411S
Philadelphia, PA 19122

www.disabilities.temple.edu

 **Institute on Disabilities**
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY®
College of Education

