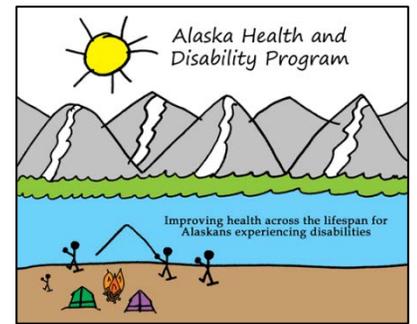


# FACT SHEET

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES



### BACKGROUND

- 46.0% of Americans, regardless of disability, have an emergency plan
- People with disabilities are more likely to live in an area at risk for an emergency or disaster
- Registry systems to assist with evacuation of people with disabilities may be utilized inappropriately or ineffectively
- People with disabilities are less likely to have an emergency kit or supplies
- People with disabilities are poorly represented in emergency planning
- Natural disasters and emergencies can highlight gaps in support services for people with disabilities who might otherwise function adequately day-to-day

23.8% OF ALASKA'S  
POPULATION OVER THE  
AGE OF 18 EXPERIENCE  
A DISABILITY (BRFSS, 2012)

### ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES

- 53.9% have supplies to shelter in place during an emergency
- 31.6% have a "go kit" for evacuation
- 18.8% have a written emergency plan
- 76.9% feel like an emergency plan will make them safer
- 92.0% feel vulnerable to disaster
- 81.0% report multiple disabilities; most common disabilities impact decision-making and ability to independently complete tasks outside the home
- 57.0% live independently
- Those with a written plan are more likely to live outside Anchorage
- Most rely on, and want, assistance from family, friends and caregivers
- Biggest benefit to having a written plan is related to continuity of care

#### Major Planning Barriers

- *Lack of time*
- *Apathy*
- *Financial resources*
- *Lack of knowledge*

# FACT SHEET

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate needs of people with disabilities into guidelines, policies, and surveillance methods
- Utilize universally designed materials and education curriculum
- Include disability representation within local emergency planning committees
- Include family and caregivers in education campaigns
- Individualized plans are important, even if there is a facility plan in place
- “Something is better than nothing” – There are benefits to completing a written plan even if a person cannot afford all the components
- A written plan is important for individuals with cognitive, memory, or communication complications so that others can assist and ensure needs are met
- Make planning easy with templates and suggestions in easy-to-find and accessible formats
- Utilize internet, email, other social media platforms to disseminate campaign materials
- Disability and health organizations should take an active role in encouraging and providing assistance

### WRITTEN PLAN

A written emergency plan contains important information such as who to contact, what things are needed, where to meet, and how to get there.

This fact sheet presents highlights from:

Rein, M.E. (2013). *Emergency preparedness for Alaskans experiencing disabilities*. Making Anywhere Possible, LLC, Anchorage, AK. Full report available at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/disability>

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