



Empowering Persons with Disabilities

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What is Emergency Management?

- Definition:
 - Emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters.



What is Emergency Management really?

- Emergency Management is here to help!
- Emergency Management Cycle
 - Prepare – Respond – Recover – Mitigate
- We find the “things”
- We help people work together



Prepare

- Preparedness Activities:
 - Developing emergency plans
 - Conducting risk assessments
 - Establishing communication protocols
 - Training emergency personnel
 - Public education campaigns
- Objective: Enhance the community's ability to respond effectively before an emergency occurs.



Respond

- Response Efforts:
 - Mobilizing emergency personnel
 - Deploying resources
 - Implementing emergency plans
 - Coordinating with agencies and organizations
- Objective: Save lives, protect property, and stabilize the situation during an emergency.



Recover

- Recovery Activities:
 - Conducting damage assessments
 - Providing assistance to affected individuals and businesses
 - Repairing infrastructure
 - Restoring essential services
- Objective: Restore affected communities to pre-disaster conditions or better.



Mitigate

- Mitigation Efforts:
 - Implementing building codes and zoning regulations
 - Investing in infrastructure improvements
 - Conducting hazard mitigation projects
 - Promoting community preparedness and education
- Objective: Reduce the risk and impact of future disasters.



How does EM help those with Disabilities?

- They hired an EM Specialist whose primary focus is Public Education and sheltering!



Educating the Public

- Help nursing homes and full-time care facilities with education and planning assumptions
- Presented at the Texas Advocates Conference in July 2023 at the Embassy Suites for around 120 people over two sessions
- Has worked with Denton State School with their Hazard Vulnerability Assessment



STEAR – State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry

- **What is STEAR?**
 - The STEAR program is a free registry that provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs in their community.
- **Who Should Register?**
 - People with disabilities
 - People who are medically fragile
 - People with access and functional needs such as:
 - People who have limited mobility
 - People who have communication barriers
 - People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
 - People who require transportation assistance
 - People who require personal care assistance

The City of Denton has around 208 persons registered with STEAR!



TX SB968 | 2021-2022 | 87th Legislature

- Sec 418.304 Required Wellness Checks
 - Requires the local government to check on medically fragile persons who are registered with the Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) to ensure they have continuity of care and the ability to continue using electrically powered medical equipment
 - Events requiring welfare checks include:
 - Extended power, water, gas outage
 - Emergency Disaster Declaration
 - Anything else deemed necessary



Requirements for Wellness Checks

- Automated phone call and text
- Personalized phone call
- In Person wellness checks

All this must be done within 24 hours of the qualifying event



What is EM doing?

This plan is still in the works!

Step 1 – Using Alert Denton (Everbridge)

Step 2 – Using EM and Fire Admin to call anyone who did not answer Alert Denton notifications

Step 3 – Using Fire Staff to go check on the remaining persons not accounted for

EM has also partnered with DME and COSERV to ensure we are being notified anytime there is a power outage longer than 4 hours for anyone on the STEAR list or on their medically fragile list



Questions?

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