



FAQ - Inclusive Emergency Management 101

Question 1: Does a disaster declaration have to happen before the National Guard can be called in to respond before, during or after a disaster?

Answer 1: No. “The governor can call the National Guard into action during local or statewide emergencies, such as storms, fires, earthquakes or civil disturbances. In addition, the President of the United States can activate the National Guard for participation in federal missions.”

Source:

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/About-the-Guard/Army-National-Guard/About-Us/>

Question 2: What do disaster or emergency declarations do to help? Can you give recent examples?

Answer 2: In order to receive federal assistance and/or federal funds States must reach capacity to request federal assistance, at which disaster and/or emergency declarations are declared.

During COVID-19 disaster was declared in all 50 states and in five territories. This allowed states to be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. We will be talking about that in detail in Module 2.

In 2021, a disaster declaration was declared in Texas in response to the extreme weather.

Example of federal assistance in the Texas Extreme Winter Weather: 126 counties are eligible for FEMA Individual Assistance, where eligible individuals and households who have sustained losses as a direct result of the disaster can apply for individual funds/assistance.

Examples of IA reimbursable costs: damage to home, vehicles, personal property, and funds to help pay for temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, and medical, dental and funeral expenses.

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Question 3: Outside of Atlantis, what disasters have we had an opportunity to intervene? Has California given us a template for recovery from forest fire?

Answer 3: CILs have had the opportunity to intervene in wildfires, hurricanes, COVID-19 and other disasters. California may be a resource, but there is no one-size-fits-all template for disaster response, it's important to practice exercises and drills with local stakeholders often.

Question 4: Isn't it still the case that if you are prepared to reach people with disabilities, you are ready for everyone?

Answer 4: True. A whole community approach with a disability inclusive priority would lessen the loss of life and infrastructure would lessen through disasters and increase community resilience.

Question 5: Does a Deaf person have a right to ask a barista to lower the mask for communication? We offered it would be better to go outside.

Answer 5: An individual has the right to ask for this, but the barista does not necessarily have the obligation to lower their mask. It can be argued that doing so would pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others, and not required as a reasonable modification to policy or practice under the ADA.

Question 6: It's good to know Atlantis is so effective. There is no affordable accessible housing at all in Pueblo. How would the Red Cross e.g. re-house people?

Answer 6: It is not the obligation of the Red Cross to re-house people, this falls on the government. The lack of availability of affordable accessible housing is a critical problem across the country. "Possible Sheltering and **Housing Assistance** for Disaster Survivors. Disaster survivors with damage to their primary residence may be eligible for **FEMA** Sheltering and **Housing Assistance**."



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Question 7: If placed in a nursing home during a disaster, will the nursing home "chain them down to stay there" making it harder to depart elsewhere?

Answer 7: There have been instances where nursing facilities have denied people access to their phones and access to outside communication and have otherwise coerced disabled people to stay.

Question 8: Are these volunteer organizations aware of civil rights?

Answer 8: Volunteer organizations may not be aware of civil rights obligations. They have compliance obligations, however it is not necessarily their job to enforce or monitor civil rights protections. The government always retains the obligation to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

Question 9: Where can undocumented individuals get assistance?

Answer 9: Emergency services (such as evacuation and sheltering) should be provided, without documentation requirements or notifying ICE. If you see this take place, or even fear it could happen, let us know and we can connect with The Dept of Homeland Security, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to elevate a resolution for potential discrimination.

Question 10: How can we improve Emergency Support Function 6 and 8?

Answer 10: Work and advocate with Colorado's Department of Human Services and Department of Public Health & Environment.