



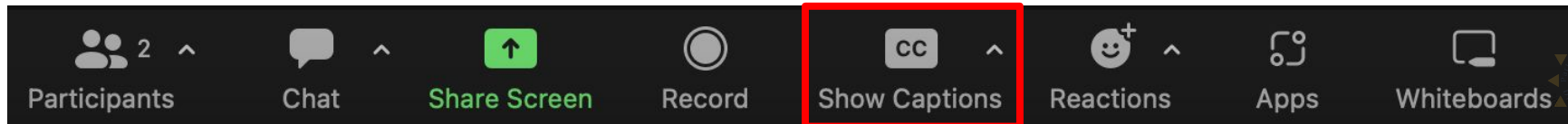
THE PARTNERSHIP
FOR INCLUSIVE DISASTER STRATEGIES

Personal Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities

 www.disasterstrategies.org 

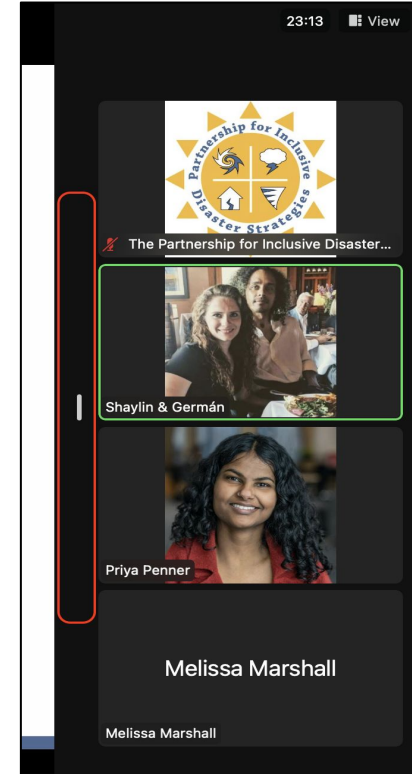
Accessibility for this Presentation

- This training is recorded. An archive of the presentation will be available.
- You will also receive an accessible slide deck of the presentation used today.
- To access the AI captions:
 - Click the button at the bottom of the screen with the “CC” icon to start captions.



Accessibility for this Presentation

- The ASL interpreters are already spotlighted.
- To adjust the size of the slides and speakers/interpreters in Zoom:
 - Drag the divider, inside in the red vertical rectangle in the screenshot to the right, that separates the speakers/interpreters from the slides.



Reminders for this Presentation

To Participate:

- Asking/responding to questions via Zoom: Use the “raise your hand” button, type in chat, or unmute and talk at appropriate times.
- For technical assistance or to alert us to an issue, type in chat/raise hand.
 - Ex. “slow down please”
- If the chat is not accessible to you, please email your questions to priya@disasterstrategies.org.

Reminders for this Presentation

Friendly reminders:

- Please identify yourself before speaking.
 - Ex. "This is Priya, and..."
- Please avoid speaking while others are speaking.
- Please keep yourself on mute when not talking.
- Please define any acronyms you use.

Welcome and About Us

Who We Are: The Partnership

The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies is the only U.S. disability-led organization with a focused mission on equity for people with disabilities and people with access and functional needs throughout all planning, programs, services and procedures before, during and after disasters and emergencies.

Your Disability & Disaster Hub



Agreements and Goals

Group Agreements

- Maintain confidentiality
- Ask questions
- Have fun!

Today's Goals

By the end of today, you will have an overview of:

- What are disasters
- When to shelter-in-place vs evacuate
- What to include in your shelter-in-place emergency kit
- What to include in your evacuation emergency kit
- How you can start to prepare

Your Goals

What would YOU like to know about how to prepare for disasters and emergencies?

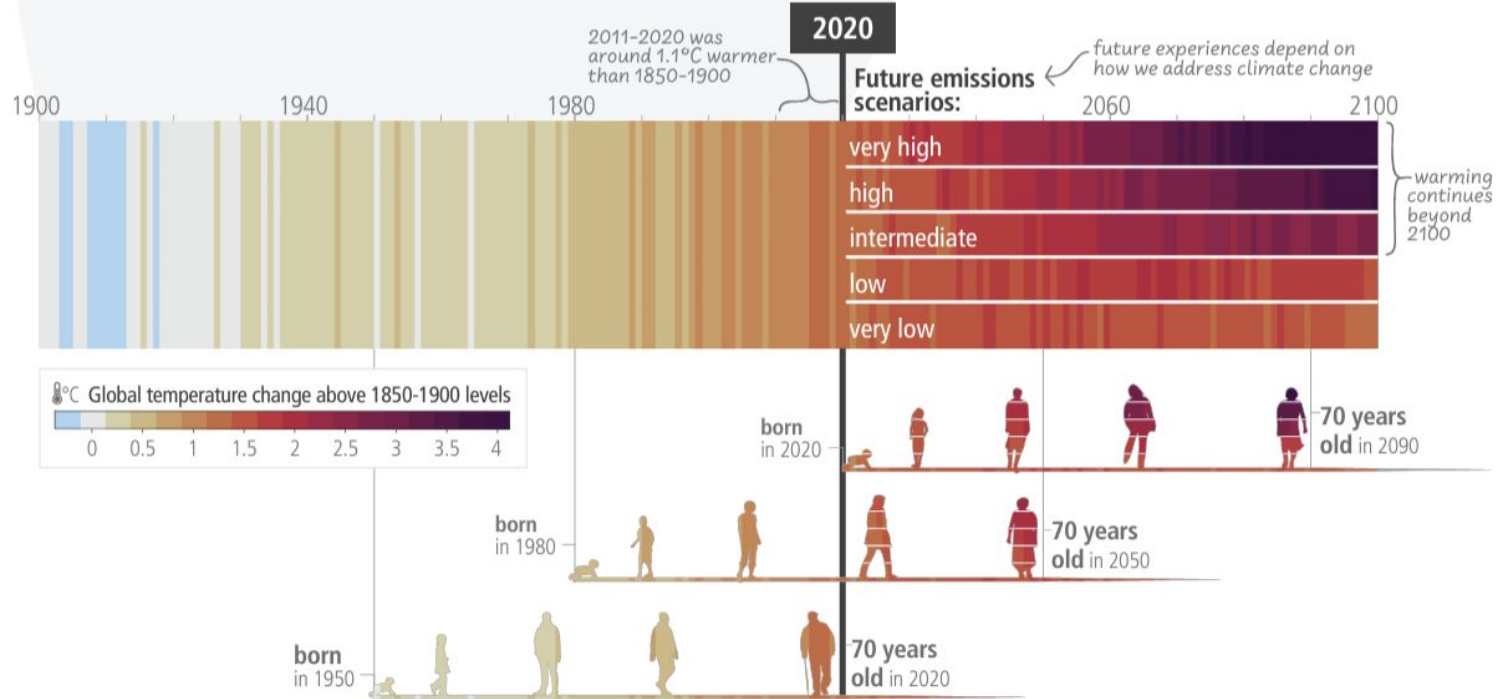
State of Disasters...

Disasters are Increasing

- “Florida is the fourth highest disaster impacted state.”
 - [Palm Beach Post](#)
- [“In Florida, billion-dollar disasters are up 92% in the last 20 years.”](#)
 - Between 1984 and 2003, there were 25 billion-dollar natural disasters.
 - Between 2004 and 2023, that number jumps to 48.

Climate Change to Climate Chaos

c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near term



IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

Disproportionate Impact

People with disabilities are 2-to-4 times more likely to die or be injured in disasters than non-disabled people.

- [United Nations](#)

“During Hurricane Katrina, Black people were 1.7 to 4 times more likely to die than white people.”

- [“Disparity in disaster preparedness between racial/ethnic groups”](#)

What is a Disaster?: FEMA's Definition

According to FEMA, a disaster is an event that:

- results in large numbers of deaths and injuries;
- causes extensive damage or destruction of facilities that provide and sustain human needs;
- produces an overwhelming demand on state and local response resources and mechanisms; ...

What is a Disaster?: FEMA's Definition

According to FEMA, a disaster is an event that:

- causes a severe long-term effect on general economic activity;
 - and severely affects state, local, and private sector capabilities to begin and sustain response activities.
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)

What is a Disaster?

A disaster is an event that:

- Causes a lot of people to die or get hurt.
- Damages or destroys buildings and homes.
- Makes it really hard for local and state governments to respond to people's needs.
- Negatively affects the economy for a long time.
- Makes it very difficult for local governments and businesses to help out right away.

Classification of Emergencies and Disasters

Emergency managers further classify emergencies and disasters by size and the type and number of issues that need to be addressed.

- Minor Emergencies
- Limited and Potential Emergencies
- Major Disasters

Know Your Risks: Common Disasters in Your Areas

- Severe storms
- Flooding
- Extreme heat
- Wildfires
- Drought
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Landslides
- Tsunamis

How to Prepare for Disasters or Emergencies

What to Do to Be Ready

- ✓ Know your risks
 - ✓ Know your rights
- Stay informed
 - ⇒ Make a plan

Disability Rights in Disasters: Review

Whenever disaster-related programs and services are provided to the general public, they must be accessible to and inclusive of people with disabilities.

- Shelters cannot deny you entry because you're disabled.
- You have the right to physically accessible and otherwise ADA compliant shelters.
- You have the right to equally effective communication.
 - Examples: ASL interpreters, large print, Braille, assistive technology

Disability Rights in Disasters: Review

- You have the right to request reasonable modifications of policies or practices.
- You have the right to bring your service animal with you in a shelter, disaster recovery center, or other public places providing disaster-related programs and services.
- You have the right not to go into a facility if you don't want.

Disability rights are NEVER suspended in disasters!

Follow Emergency Alerts

Types of alerts:



TV



Radio



Social media



Wireless Emergency Alerts



FEMA app



Fire alarm and carbon
monoxide detector



Red Cross app

**Plan for disasters and
emergencies now.**

When to Plan? As Soon As Possible!

Planning now:

- Can help keep you safer during disasters / emergencies
- May also help lessen disaster-related anxiety

If you wait until a disaster is about to happen or happening, you:

- Will be more overwhelmed
- May be unable to secure supplies
- May be less able to connect with your support network

Make Plans

Plans start with having conversations with:



Family



Friends



Support Networks



Faith community



Coworkers

Make sure you have a plan for:



Sheltering in place



Evacuating

Make Plans for..

Sheltering in place because of:



Chemical spill



Dirty bomb



Severe weather

Evacuating because of:



Wildfire



Hurricane



Building fire

Starting to Plan: First Steps

Attending this training is the first step in planning.

Next Steps:

- Focus on preparing for disasters that happen most often in your area.
- Plan with the understanding that disasters and extreme weather can and will change.

Review: The Partnership's [General No-Cost Preparedness Tips](#) for some ideas.

Starting to Plan: First Steps

First steps in developing your disaster plan can include:

- Deciding how often you want to plan for disasters, emergencies, and extreme weather and note this in your calendar.
- Beginning to create a social network to assist you, if you want one.
- Exchanging updated contact information with your social network if you already have one.

Starting to Plan: First Steps

First steps in developing your disaster plan can include:

- Setting times to review your plan and rotate items so that your emergency kit does not contain expired items.
- Setting priorities: Decide what is most important or most manageable to you.
 - If you can't complete some of these steps, consider modifying them to meet your needs.

Starting to Plan: Setting Priorities

Some priorities to consider:

- When assembling supplies for a go bag and shelter-in-place kit, consider prioritizing your food and water supply.
- Once you have enough food and water for every person in the household, then move to other necessities, such as extra medication (as possible), batteries, flashlights, blankets, etc.

Things to Think About as You Plan

- ✓ How will I know about a disaster or emergency?
- ✓ What is my plan for sheltering?
- ✓ What is my plan for evacuating?
- ✓ What is my plan if power is out for an extended period of time?
- ✓ Who is a part of my support network?
- ✓ What is my communication plan?
- ✓ Do I have what I need?

Shelter-In-Place

Preparing with Few Resources

Not everyone may be able to have the time, money, or space to gather all items suggested for an emergency kit.

This is okay!

Any planning is better than no planning.

Preparing with Few Resources

If you have any amount of money available, buy essentials like:

- water,
- shelf-stable food,
- flashlights and batteries,
- solar-powered battery charger for phones or other devices, and
- a hand crank radio or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio.

Preparing with Few Resources

Not having money does not mean that you cannot do any disaster planning.

You can:

- Review our [General No-Cost Preparedness Tips](#).
- Look for free items for your go bag / shelter-in-place kit.
 - Find out if food pantries, faith-based groups, or other nonprofits in your community can help.

Preparing with Few Resources

It is often difficult for disabled people to have enough money for day-to-day survival, let alone extra to prepare for disasters.

This is not your fault.

Building Your Emergency Kit

- ✓ **Water** (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ✓ **Food** (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food) and manual **can opener**
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Masks
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand **crank radio** and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert

Building Your Emergency Kit

- ✓ Flashlights and extra batteries
- ✓ Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- ✓ Chargers
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties
- ✓ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ✓ Local maps
- ✓ Whistle

Important Documents

Keep important documents in a waterproof bag *and* saved electronically, if possible.

Consider including:

- ✓ List of emergency contacts
- ✓ House/apartment lease, mortgage or deed
- ✓ Health insurance and primary doctor information
- ✓ Copies of ID, birth certificate, and social security card or green card (if applicable)

Important Documents

Consider including:

- ✓ Prescription medication details
- ✓ Dietary requirements
- ✓ Information on your customized equipment
- ✓ Service animal or pet vet records and/or microchip information

Building Your Emergency Kit

When building your kit, remember:

- Build your kit to meet your needs.
 - This includes having a kit in places you are often at: home, work, school, car, day programs, etc.
- Prepare a go bag to survive at least 3 days.
- Prepare a 2-week shelter-in-place kit.

Building Your Emergency Kit



Important reminders:

- Check on and update your supplies (as needed) every six months.
 - Consider updating beginning of winter and start of summer.
- Keep your kit in a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight.

BREAK!
10 minutes

Shelter-in-Place as a Disabled Person

Disability Preparedness



Think about your equipment

- Wheelchair, walker, white cane, hearing aids, speech device, breathing machines



Think through what needs power to function?

What other supplies do you need to maintain your independence?

- Urinary and/or bowel supplies, wound care supplies, gloves, wipes

Disability Preparedness

What are your communication needs?

- ASL, using a communication device, plain language, large print, Braille, etc.

What is your communication plan if you are unable to communicate during a disaster?

- Communication board, support network, paper and pen

How will you communicate with your circle of support?

Planning for Disasters when You Live Alone and Use Attendant Services / Direct Support Staff

It is important for disabled people to have the option to live independently by themselves. Living alone makes it more critical to plan with your disability in mind.

Plan for how you would meet your daily needs if you had no attendant or direct support staff there.

Planning for Disasters when You Live Alone and Use Attendant Services / Direct Support Staff

Planning with your disability in mind may look like:

- Building relationships with people nearby, such as neighbors
- Having food that you can easily eat and that meets your dietary needs in your emergency kit

Question for You

What other things are you may need for your emergency kits?

Questions?

Evacuations

Evacuations

From home



Your Go Bag



Easy to grab

Places you go often



Accessible egress



Evacuation instructions

Make sure to include:



power equipment chargers,



consumable medical supplies,



communication device,



fidget devices or other sensory items,



a change of clothes,
and



3 bottles of water

Evacuations

Where will you go?

- Family, friends, neighbor, shelter, place of worship

How will you evacuate?

- Car, friends, family, public bus, paratransit service
 - What are backup plans if paratransit and other public transit is not operating or if private vehicles become inoperable?

Planning for Disasters with and without Social Networks

Plan for Disasters with a Social Network

Planning with your social network includes working with:

- Friends
- Family
- Neighbors
- Coworkers
- Service providers
- Other people in your life

A social network can be valuable in preparing when it exists or if you want one.

Plan for Disasters without a Social Network

You may not have or may want a social network.

You can still plan for disasters.

Consider how a disaster might affect your daily life and how a disaster might disrupt your routine.

Planning for Disasters Alone

Some questions to think about include:

- What would you do if you lose water, electricity, cell phone connectivity, and/or internet access for several days?
- Would you be comfortable sheltering in place by yourself?
 - Do you have the supplies you need to shelter-in-place?
- If you decide to evacuate, will you need help? Do you have a plan for how you would get to a shelter?

I want to plan with a social network and don't have one. How do I build one?

If you don't have a social network and would like to build one, you can start by developing relationships.

This could involve:

- starting casual friendships,
- deepening existing relationships, or
- making stronger connections with your neighbors.

I want to plan with a social network and don't have one. How do I build one?

Here are some ways to start building relationships:

- Look for virtual spaces where you feel welcomed.
- Join a club.
- Go to a regular event.
- Take a class.
- Volunteer.
- Accept invitations to events/social gatherings.
- Initiate ways to connect with others.

When Building a Social Network...

- **Give it time.** It may take a while to form close friendships. As you develop these friendships, invite people to be part of your disaster planning network.
- **Consider what you can offer.** You can share what you now know about emergency planning. You might be able to check in on them or help in other ways during a disaster or extreme weather.

When Building a Social Network...

- **Be safe.** At events to connect with people take COVID-19 and other disease precautions:
 - Wear a high-quality mask (N95, KN95)
 - Practice social distancing
 - As possible, ask participants to be up-to-date on their vaccines.

Planning with a Social Network

Options for planning with a social network:

- Form a disaster planning team that meets virtually or in-person until your plan is set. Later, periodically meet to replace items that are about to expire or not working.
- Ask specific people in your social network to be responsible for completing specific tasks.

Planning with a Social Network

Options for planning with a social network:

- Build relationships with neighbors. This allows you to exchange contact information or agree to check in on each other in disasters or extreme weather.
- If you live alone and need assistance with tasks of daily living, consider making a plan with a neighbor for help in an emergency.

Create a Culture of Preparedness

- Know that a disaster can happen at any time.
- Update your plan regularly.
- Make preparedness a part of your routine.



**Practice your plan
often!**

Questions?

What Did Your Plan Look Like During Ian?

How did you prepare for Ian?

What needs did you have after the hurricane?

What would you have done differently?

Question for You

How do you feel about starting or enhancing your plan?

Personal Preparedness Checklist

You will receive a checklist that will go over:

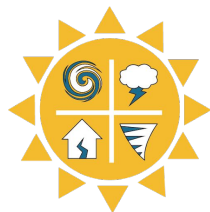
- ✓ Disability Rights During Disasters Overview
- ✓ Staying Informed Resources
- ✓ Emergency Kit Checklist
- ✓ Disability-related Preparedness Checklist
- ✓ Your Planning Guide

Resources

- Alerts: [How to Opt in to Wireless Emergency Alerts](#)
- Download the [FEMA App](#)
- Download the Red Cross App for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#)
- Finding a [shelter near you](#)
 - Text SHELTER and your ZIP Code to 43362
(Example Text: "Shelter 98499")
 - Call Red Cross 1-800-733-2767
- [Ready Resources](#)
- [Poison control](#): Call 1-800-222-1222

Resources

- Disability & Disaster Hotline:
 - Call / Text: +1 (800) 626-4959
 - Email: hotline@disasterstrategies.org
- American Red Cross South Florida Region
- 211 / United Way
- 311
- Southeast ADA Center
- Disaster Tips



THE PARTNERSHIP
FOR INCLUSIVE DISASTER STRATEGIES

Thank you!

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