

# Our Community: Aging & Disability Conference Webinar Series

## Emergency Preparedness Series

### “Wildfires in a COVID-19 Environment”

September 4, 2020



# Housekeeping

Today's Webinar is being recorded and both this accessible recording and accessible copies of the slides will be on the FREED website.

[www.FREED.org](http://www.FREED.org)

## Questions & Comments?

Type your questions in the Q&A tab

Comments in the CHAT tab

**Closed Captioning Available:** Click on CC on your control panel then click "show subtitle"

# WELCOME!



Ana Acton  
Executive Director  
FREED



# Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) of Nevada, Yuba and Sutter Counties

Serve as consumer directed resources for long-term services and supports (LTSS) for people of all ages, disabilities, and income levels.

Utilize a “no wrong door” approach, making access to information and LTSS as seamless and easy as possible for consumers.

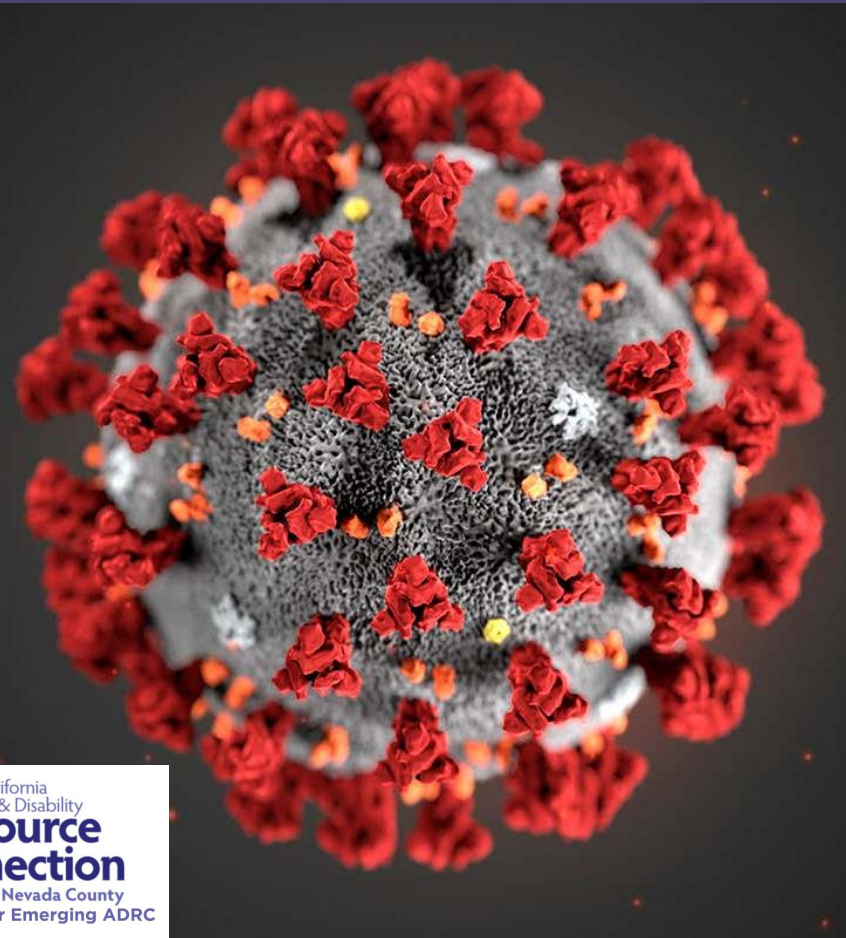
Bring existing resources together to provide objective information about the full range of options that are available and to empower consumers to make informed decisions about their LTSS



# COVID-19 GAPS & BARRIERS

COVID is exposing and expanding already un-met needs including:

- Food access
- Isolation and loneliness
- Rental and financial assistance
- Access to technology & high-speed internet
- Transition and diversion from nursing homes
- Access to personal attendant care
- Caregiver respite
- Response to Emergencies and Disasters



# Emergency Preparedness Workshop Series

September 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

- People with disabilities and older adults are disproportionately impacted by disasters
- How can we prepare and respond to wildfire season and public-safety power shut-off events in the middle of COVID-19?



# L. Vance Taylor, Chief Office of Access and Functional Needs California Governor's Office of Emergency Services



Luis “Vance” Taylor is responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional needs are identified before, during and after disasters and integrated into the State’s emergency management systems. Born and raised in the SF Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association and been a principal at a top-ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm, Catalyst Partners, LLC. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

# Roxann (Roxiey) Crawford

## Disability Integration Specialist

### FEMA Region IX



Roxann Crawford was selected in September 2016 to serve as the Regional Disability Integration Specialist for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX after having served nearly four years as the Disability Integration Advisor on the National Incident Management Assistance Team (N-IM- West, one of three (3) elite national response teams. Roxann partners with all federal program areas to educate and foster a whole community response which is fully inclusive of the needs of people with disabilities and provides direct programmatic and process review to create more inclusive and fully accessible options during disaster response operations, Identifying barriers and finding solutions.



# ***“California’s Model for Integrated Emergency Planning”***



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# Overview

This presentation will focus on California's efforts to integrate the emergency management process. Specifically, the following areas are being addressed to ensure individuals with disabilities, older adults, and all Californians with access or functional needs have their needs met before, during, and after disasters:

- Integrated **emergency communication**;
- Integrated **transportation/evacuation**; and
- Integrated **emergency sheltering** operations



# Access and Functional Needs

## Individuals who have:

- Developmental, intellectual or physical disabilities
- Chronic conditions or injuries
- Limited English proficiency

## Individuals who are:

- Older adults, children or pregnant
- Living in institutionalized settings
- Low income, homeless and/or transportation disadvantaged



# Perspective

To understand where we are, we need to know where we've been

History: Local jurisdictions, states, and the nation as a whole have not always integrated their emergency plans

Hurricane Katrina: 70% of all who perished had an access or functional need



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# The Office of Access & Functional Needs

Established by the Governor to identify the needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and all Californians with access or functional needs before, during, and after a disaster.

OAFN integrates disability needs and resources throughout every facet of the emergency management process.



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# Partnership & Planning

No single entity owns the entirety of emergency management. Cal OES partners with whole community partners, state agencies, local jurisdictions, the private sector, and others to ensure an effective, coordinated response to disasters.

State-issued guidance to local jurisdictions emphasizes the importance of, and steps to, leveraging community partnerships to develop integrated communication, transportation/evacuation, and sheltering operational plans for all Californian communities.



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# Emergency Communication

During a disaster, communication becomes especially critical. Information needs to be effective, understood, consumable, and actionable by the whole community; this means ensuring jurisdictions understand how to utilize the following communication resources:

- **American Sign Language** (ASL) interpretation;
- **Foreign language translation** services;
- **Alternative formats**; and
- **Plain text**.



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# Emergency Transportation/Evacuation

To meet the emergency transportation/evacuation needs of California's whole community, three key elements must come together at the outset (and throughout) every disaster:

- **Awareness** (do people know who to call?)
- **Coordination** (are MOUs in place?); and
- **Operational expediency** (are we moving faster?)



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# Emergency Sheltering Operations

Shelters need to be **physically and programmatically accessible**. All facilities should be equipped with the assets and resources necessary to ensure the needs of individuals with access and functional needs are met in a timely, inclusive and dignified manner.

Successful sheltering **does not happen without planning and partnership** across government agencies, community-based organizations, and stakeholders.

Survivors should **not be separated from their support systems** (e.g. care provider, service animal, etc.).



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# Resources

## OAFN Needs Library

The OAFN Library is a comprehensive clearinghouse for access and functional needs-specific best practices, guidance documents, videos, and more. Whether you're looking for information on effective communication, sheltering or integration; you'll find it all in the OAFN Library!



## Office of Access and Functional Needs Program Highlights and Ongoing Efforts

- Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery
- Outreach and Partnership Development
- AFN Library
- Disaster Response
- Disaster Planning
- Great California Shakeout
- Integrated Sheltering
- AFN Web Map
- Active Shooter Awareness Guidance
- Evacuation/Transportation
- Disaster Response Interpreter (DRI) Training
- Guidance to Large Venue/Stadiums on Integrating Emergency Operations Plans



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# Partnerships are the Key

- No one agency or organization can plan for all potentials and no one person or group has all the answers.
- Partnering with Cal OES, whole community partners, state agencies, local jurisdictions, the private sector.
- Partnering internally with other FEMA regions and programs within the region to work to identify potential shortfalls and gaps in service due to the impacts of Covid.



**FEMA**

# FEMA Registration During Covid

- FEMA registration is done in the same way as it is typically done.
  - By phone calling 1-800-621-3362 (VRI) or (TTY 800-462-7585)
  - Online on [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov)
  - Via the FEMA app (available for all smartphones)



**FEMA**

# FEMA Process During Covid

- You can make reasonable accommodation requests for assistance with the FEMA process or during the FEMA process anytime.
- Inspections will be done virtually to minimize the risk of covid. Accommodations are available during this process as well.



**FEMA**

# Mobile Registration Intake Centers (MRIC)

Potential Sites May Include

- Fixed facilities with communication capabilities and a parking area.
- Large parking areas with no brick/mortar.
- Large arenas with communications and large parking areas.
- Open land designated for covered “drive-thru” centers.



**FEMA**

# FEMA Resources

- Ready.gov
- FEMA.gov
- FEMA App
- Disasterassistance.gov
- FEMA Social Media Accounts



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# Questions?? & Answers!!



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# 2020 Our Community: Aging & Disability Webinar Series

**August - November sessions include:**

- Emergency Preparedness – 9/4, 9/11/2020
- Digital Divide – 9/18, 9/25, 10/2/2020
- Social and Emotional Well Being - 10/9, 10/16, 10/23/2020
- Long Term Services & Supports – 10/30, 11/6, 11/13/2020

**Register Today!**

**<https://freed.org/our-community-an-aging-and-disability-conference/>**



# Take the US Census Today!

The logo for the 2020 US Census, featuring the text "United States®" in a smaller font above the word "Census" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "2020" below it in the same large, bold font. The entire logo is centered on a dark blue rectangular background.

United States®  
**Census**  
**2020**

<https://2020census.gov/>

# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

## Vote November 3rd, 2020!

Register to Vote Today –  
<https://registertovote.ca.gov>  
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