Keeping Older Americans and People with Disabilities Safe and Healthy in Emergencies

Kathleen Otte, Regional Administrator
Administration for Community Living
January 13, 2014
The National Center for Health in the Aging

Main initiatives focus around the following:

- Establishing collaborations with national and state aging agencies
- Conducting needs assessments with health center programs and health center program look-a-likes to determine primary medical care service delivery needs among grantees that serve the elderly
- Providing an annual National Primary Care Symposium on Aging
- Offering remote, on-site, and one-on-one training and technical assistance and peer mentoring, and conducting a new HRSA BPHC grantee training and orientation call
- Developing protocols and tools
- Providing knowledge of health literacy and skills necessary to reading, understanding, and acting on basic health care information
- Facilitating outreach to seniors
Factors to consider in Community Preparedness Planning

• 78% of adults age 85 and over live in traditional community settings.

• About 80% of older adults have at least one chronic condition that makes them more vulnerable than healthy people during a disaster.

• Physiological, sensory, and cognitive changes experienced as part of aging result in older adults having special needs during emergencies.

• Disparities exist in emergency preparedness for older adults by socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity.
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Disaster Preparedness: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Planning

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Current U.S. Older Adult Population Health Realities

- Approximately 50% of the 65+ older adult population have (2) or more chronic health problems which increase their vulnerability.

- Many older adults may require critical or substantial health care services.

- Many require 4-8 or more prescription over-the-counter drugs and rely on others for them.

- 42% of older adults have functional limitations and may need assistance.
Where and How Older Adults Live in the U.S. Continues to Change

• More older adults live in their own homes within their communities than in nursing homes

• Many older adults living in communities have and require interdependent care-giving systems and/or arrangements

• The older adult housing trend continue to change as “Baby Boomers” turn 65
Disasters: What We Know

• Disasters can happen at anytime, anywhere and vary in magnitude
  – Presidential disaster declarations have happened in nearly every state and for some states several times (*e.g.* hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, forest fires, etc.)

• Resilient individuals, facilities and communities result when a “whole of community” and “all hazards” preparedness and response approach is adopted
Older Adult Preparedness and Response
Essential Partnerships and Collaborations

Other Essential Community Partners
- State and local Departments of Health, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Long-Term Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Healthcare Coalitions*, Transportation, Public Works, Fire/EMS Authorities, Law Enforcement, Shelters, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Faith-Based Organizations, and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), ADRCs, Adult Protective Services, and other relevant organizations

ACL Headquarters & Regional Offices

State Agency on Aging /Title-VI Tribal Orgs.

Area Agency on Aging & ADRCs

Supportive Services

Volunteers

State Emergency Operation Center

County Emergency Operation Center

First Responders

Disaster Response Centers
Essential Building Blocks of Older Adult Disaster Preparedness Planning

• **Promote Individual and Caregiver Preparedness**
  – “*Preparedness begins at home and extends to the community*”
  – Cultivate awareness of preparedness tools (*e.g.* CMS checklists) to help individuals anticipate their needs and prepare and identify redundancies for assistance

• **Emergency Planning and Emergency Plans**
  – “*Community resource assumptions can result in critical response failures*”
  – Emergency planning and plans **MUST** be consistently reviewed, updated and must **include essential redundancies** (*e.g.* transportation, emergency power)

• **Establish and Foster Community and Regional Partnerships**
  – “*A disaster isn’t the time to be handing out business cards--Take a whole of community and all hazards approach to planning*”
  – Engage community partners and foster development of partnerships and healthcare coalitions to ensure emergency plan and response alignment and integration at all levels (*e.g.*, facility, community, State/local agency)
Essential Building Blocks of Older Adult & People with Disabilities Preparedness Planning

• Support and Participate in Preparedness Training
  – “Knowledge is power during a response”
  – Require staff to know the critical role they fulfill as an individual and apart of a broader response team so they are empowered and ready to respond

• Promote and Participate in Exercises at All Levels
  – “Cultivate success—practice—to be ready on game-day”
  – Test the teams knowledge and ability to integrate during a response
  – Provides a platform for community partner feedback regarding planning gaps, best practices and other preparedness opportunities
Individual Preparedness: Latest Advances, Best Practices and Resources

• Social Media Tools and Resources:
  – ASPR’s bReddi and Project Lifeline Facebook Apps *(PHE.gov)*
  – HHS Emergency Preparedness Resources Website/Widget *(PHE.gov)*
  – FEMA Pledge to Prepare-Older Adults Website/Widget *(Ready.gov)*

• Emergency Preparedness Checklist/Fact Sheet:
  – CMS Emergency Preparedness Checklist-Recommended Tool for Persons with Medical Needs Living Home, Family Guardians and Caregivers
  – ACL National Family Caregiver Support Program-Just in Case Emergency Readiness for Older Adults and Caregivers
  – CDC Emergency Preparedness and You Webpage

• Disaster Hotline:
  – SAMHSA Disaster Distress Hotline (1-800-985-5990 or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746)
Facility Preparedness:
Latest Advances, Best Practices and Resources

• **Social Media Tools and Resources:**
  – HHS Emergency Preparedness Resources Widget
  – US Public Health and Medical Services Support (YouTube)

• **Emergency Preparedness Checklist/Fact Sheet:**
  – CMS Emergency Preparedness Checklist--Recommended Tool for Effective Health Care Facility Planning
  – CMS Emergency Preparedness Checklist--Recommended Tool for Persons in LTC Facilities & Their Family Members, Friends, Personal Caregivers, Guardians & Long-Term Care Ombudsmen
  – CMS Survey and Certification All Hazards FAQs

• **Emergency Power Assessment Tools and Resources:**
  – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Emergency Power Facility Assessment Tool (EPFAT) and Informational Videos
Community Preparedness: Latest Advances, Best Practices and Resources

• **Healthcare Coalition**
  - “A collaborative network of healthcare organizations and their respective public and private sector response partners within a defined region” (ASPR Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities-National Guidance for Healthcare System Preparedness 2012)

• **Healthcare Coalition Best Practices:**
  - Leverage operational expertise within a community
  - Establish regional agreements to augment/share information and resources in public health emergencies and disasters
  - Build upon existing tools, plans, exercises, and training to identify and address community preparedness gaps
  - Integrate community assets and promote a “whole of community” incident command structure and response
Community Preparedness: Latest Advances, Best Practices and Resources

• **Social Media Tools and Resources:**
  - CDC Emergency Preparedness For Older Adults Web Portal
  - HHS Emergency Preparedness Resources Widget

• **Emergency Preparedness Guidance:**
  - CDC Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing their Protection During All-Hazards Emergencies: A Cross-Sector Guide for States and Communities
  - CDC Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults Legal Information
  - CDC Public Health Preparedness Capabilities-National Standards for State and Local Planning

• **Emergency Response Resource for Shelters (ESF-6):**
  - FEMA Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Contract
Closing Summary

• Older adults & people with disabilities tend to be invisible in their communities, they instead MUST be advocated for in disaster planning and responses.

• Disaster preparedness planning must consider the unique caregiver arrangements and functional needs of older adults & people with disabilities.

• Successful disaster planning and responses require a “whole of community approach” that prioritizes communication, collaboration and accurate and timely information.
Useful Resources and Web Links

Social Media Tools and Web Portal Resources:
- CDC Emergency Preparedness For Older Adults Web Portal: http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/
- CDC Emergency Preparedness and You Website: http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/
- ASPR bReddi and Project: Lifeline Facebook Apps: http://www.phe.gov/lifeline/Pages/default.aspx
- SAMHSA Disaster Distress Hotline: http://www.disasterdistress.samhsa.gov/
- US Public Health and Medical Services Support (YouTube): http://www.youtube.com/user/phegov?feature=results_main

Emergency Preparedness Checklists/Fact Sheets/Resources:
Emergency Preparedness Checklists/Fact Sheets/Resources (Cont.):


- CMS Survey and Certification All Hazards FAQs: [CMS Website](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Downloads/AllHazardsFAQs.pdf)

- US Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Power Assessment Tool (EPFAT): [US Army Corps of Engineers Website](http://epfat.swf.usace.army.mil/FAQs) or YouTube: [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq2CaSSRYV8)

Emergency Preparedness Guidance:

- CDC Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing their Protection During All-Hazards Emergencies: A Cross-Sector Guide for States and Communities: [CDC Website](http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/planning_tools/guide.htm) or [PDF](http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/pdf/guide.pdf)

- CDC Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults Legal Information: [CDC Website](http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/legal/index.htm)

- ACL National Family Caregiver Support Program-Emergency Readiness for Older Adults and Caregivers: [ACL Website](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/Caregiver/docs/Just_in_Case030706_links.pdf)

Emergency Preparedness Guidance (cont.):

Q&A

• If you would like to ask the presenter a question please submit it through the questions box on your control panel.

• If you are dialed in through your telephone and would like to verbally ask the presenter a question, use the “raise hand” icon on your control panel and your line will be unmuted.
Resources

• Preparedness for Older Adults & Their Caregivers

• Emergency Readiness for Older Adults and Caregivers

• CDC’s Disaster Planning Goal: Protect Vulnerable Older Adults

• Emergency Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations: People with Special Health-care Needs
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Save the Date
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Alexandria, Virginia

National Primary Care Symposium on Aging
Cornerstones for Improving Senior Health Outcomes:
Outreach, Enrollment and Community Partnerships

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The National Center for Health and the Aging
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