

*Katrina:*  
*Lessons Learned*

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- Include disability experts in emergency preparedness planning
- Provide disability training to all personnel involved in emergency response and relief efforts

- Use an automated phone system to inform people of a mandatory evacuation
- Begin evacuation as early as possible
- When evacuating people, DO NOT separate families

- Provider evacuation plans must be comprehensive and detailed
- Government needs to help providers evacuate people they serve
- Individuals with disabilities need identification

- Eliminate bureaucracy
- Establish a clear chain of command
- Establish alternative communication systems

- Red Cross should only use accessible buildings as shelters if possible
- Do an accessibility assessment
- Make temporary modifications
- Make accommodations

- Red Cross and Pop-Up Shelters must register everyone when they enter a shelter using Standardized Form
- Identify people with disabilities
- Refer to appropriate agency

- Each shelter should assign at least 1 permanent Red Cross position to address the needs of people with disabilities in that shelter
- Ensure that accessible transportation is available

- Red Cross must make an evacuation plan for each shelter, specifically addressing how people with disabilities will be evacuated

- Agreement between Red Cross and disability organizations to gain immediate access to shelters after the disaster

- State Disability Shelter Teams trained in advance
- Central database with compatibility for sharing information
- Tracking mechanism of where people go when they leave

- Special Needs Shelters need to accept whole family or regular shelters need to accept people with special needs and have appropriate medical staff on site

- Shelters and other temporary housing equipped to support people with significant disabilities are needed to avoid unnecessary institutionalization

- Resource information at shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers
  - include local #s
- FEMA and Red Cross on site to take applications in person
- Checklist for evacuees

- FEMA Disaster Recovery

Centers must be in accessible buildings and make accommodations for persons with sensory impairments

- Plan, plan and plan how you will **COORDINATE** the relief efforts
- Write Emergency Disaster Rules in advance re: Services, Funding, Providers, Relaxing Requirements, etc.

- Certain % ADA accessible FEMA trailers
- Ones manufactured in the future should be Universal Design

- Registry of vacant government subsidized housing in the State

*Closing  
Thoughts*

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

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