

# Vulnerable Populations Planning – Mitigation Matters

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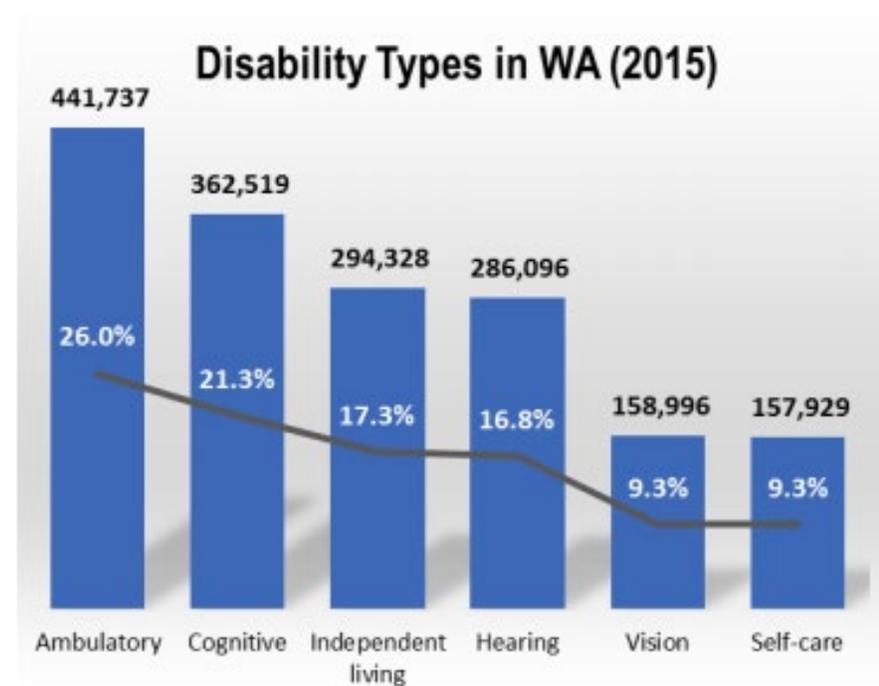




**In a disaster...everyone must be notified, evacuated, transported and sheltered equally...not specially, just equally.**

# Statistics

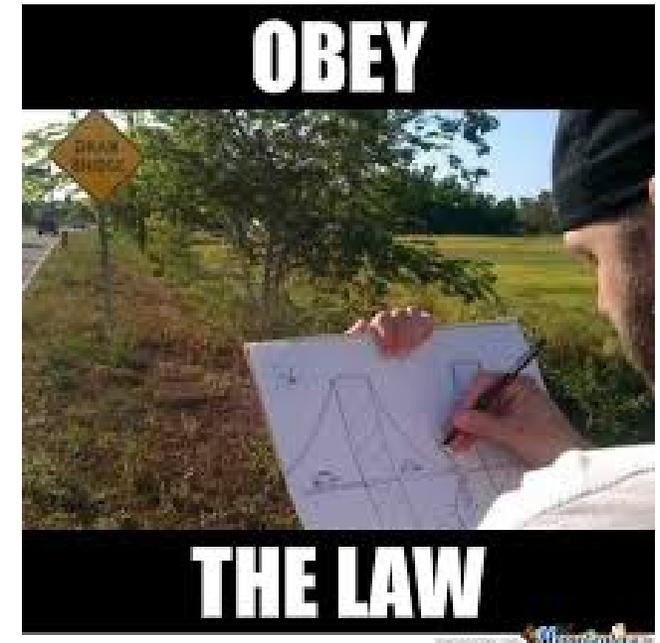
- 908,818 People live with a disability in Washington State. \*
- 41% in the 35-64 year old range
- 22% over age 75
- 18% 65-74 years old



- \*Source 2017 Disability & DVR Report – Department of Social & Health Services

# Laws

- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Americans with Disabilities Act 1990, 2008
- Stafford Act, section 308
- Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act 2006
  - Special Needs Assessment of Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE)
- Washington State Law RCW 38.52 for Limited English Proficiency



# Whole Community Emergency Planning



- Philosophical approach to the business of emergency management
- Special Needs Assessment of Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE)
  - 1800 people died during Hurricane Katrina
  - 80% were people with disabilities or access or functional need



# Whole Community Emergency Planning

- After Action Report from 2017 Hurricane Season
  - Data from previous disasters are still not being applied
  - Lack of equal access compounded for people with disabilities
  - Continual reliance by EM on disability organizations to act as 'provider of first resort'
  - Constant use of volunteers and donations by government to meet disability civil rights



# Access & Functional Needs

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) definition
  - Communication
  - Maintaining Health
  - Independence
  - Safety and Support
  - Transportation
- Persons with Disabilities
- Children and Youth
- Aged Population
- Individuals experiencing extreme poverty or homelessness





# What is Pierce County EM Doing?

# AFN Coalition

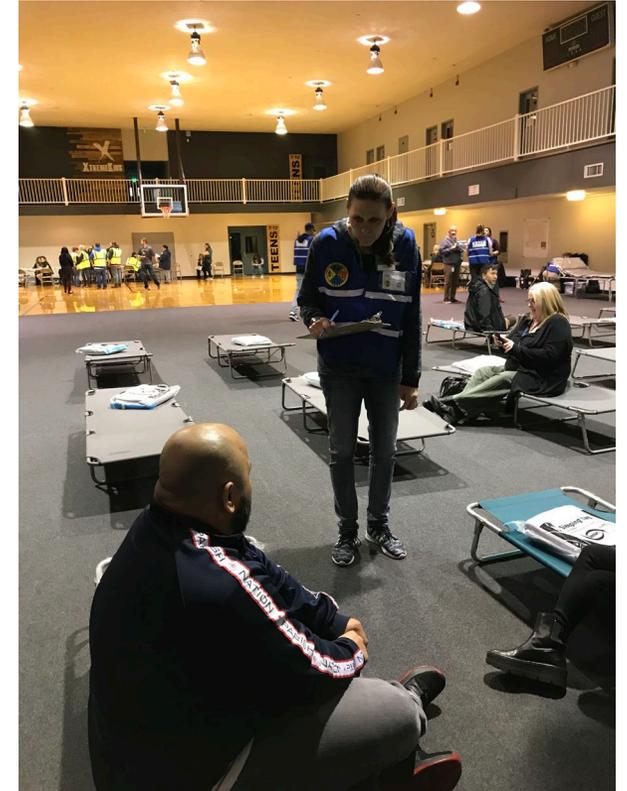
- Engaging stakeholders - a seat at the table
- Planning for Persons with Disabilities, people with access and functional needs, in all phases of emergency management
- Membership
- Monthly meeting every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 9:00 am at the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center, Tacoma



# Functional Assessment Service Team



- Trained social service professionals ready to respond to disaster shelters
  - Social workers, case managers, subject matter experts
- FAST distinguishes among people who need assistance in maintaining their safety, health, mobility, independence and emotional stability from those who have acute medical needs.



# Effective Communication Access for All

- Access for individuals with limited English speaking ability, including speakers of American Sign Language
- Alert and Warning in languages other than English
- Emergency Preparedness material provided in different languages
- Communication Outreach Group
  - Trusted Community Voices able to disseminate translated life-saving messages
  - 2-way communication between community and PCEM





# Online Resources

- HHS emPOWER Map - Power Dependencies by Medicare data
  - <http://www.phe.gov/empowermap/Pages/default.aspx>
- WA Department of Social & Health Services Adult Family Home Locator
  - <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/adsaapps/lookup/AFHPubLookup.aspx>
- Washington Tracking Network - Social Vulnerability to Hazards
  - <https://test-fortress.wa.gov/doh/newwtn/WTNIBL>



# Thank you!

Questions? Comments!

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CLEARING A PATH  
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS  
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!

