

# **Designing the Mobile Tips for First Responders on Disabilities and Other Functional and Access Needs**

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at Texas A&M University  
[redd.tamu.edu](http://redd.tamu.edu)

# University Centers on Developmental Disability

- 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities that focus on research, education, and community service related to the needs of individuals with disabilities
- Centers share a vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity, and community inclusion are key components of this vision.





<http://www.gov.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=photogallery&tmp=home&navID=10&cpID=0&cfmID=0&catID=1>





A rescuer carries a young man who is unable to walk to safety.  
- Retrieved from FEMA Photo Library 2006.



Deaf section for Hurricane Katrina evacuees at the Houston Astrodome. (Houston, TX., 9/10/2005 -- FEMA photo/Andrea Booher)



# Research and Education on Disability and Disaster

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## Project REDD

*A project of the Center on Disability and Development*

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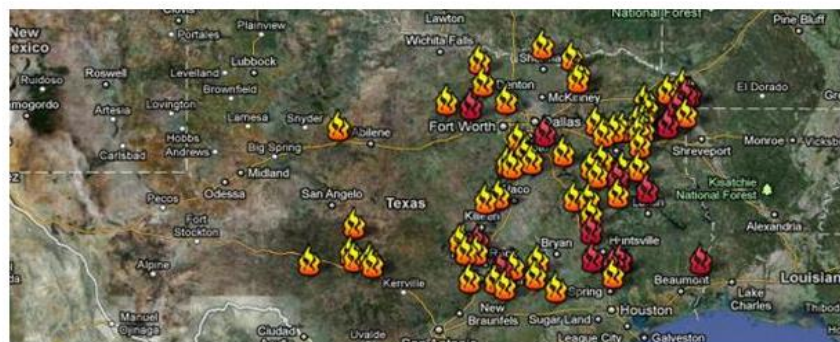
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## Project REDD

The mission of Project REDD is to:

1. conduct high-quality research and evaluation studies on how disasters effect individuals with disabilities and their families, and
2. provide research-based training and outreach on the topic of disability and disaster for organizations, service providers, families, and individuals.

Project REDD has collaborated with a broad range of other academic and research entities in investigating issues. Project REDD partners with other researchers exploring psychological constructs related to the effects of disaster.

Project REDD  
c/o Center on Disability and  
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# **New Paradigm in Emergency Management**



# National Preparedness Goal

- Paradigm shift to the concepts of inclusion and whole community preparedness
- Includes children, individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, diverse communities, and those with limited English proficiency

# The Stafford Act

- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) is the law that authorizes Federal assistance when the President declares a State to be a disaster area.
- Section 308 of the Stafford Act protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, disability, nationality, sex, age, or economic status in all disaster assistance programs.

# The ADA

- The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability.
- It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal.



# People First Language

*How do we talk  
about people with disabilities?*

# Try This...

Instead of....	Use...
Handicapped	<b>Person with a Disability</b>
A Down's kid	<b>He has Down syndrome</b>
Wheelchair bound	<b>Uses a wheelchair</b>
Mentally retarded	<b>Intellectual disability</b>

# **Who are People with Disabilities and People with Functional or Access Needs?**





Photos from:  
<http://www.nod.org/katrinaphotos/katrina9.jpg>

# Using traditional labels, people with...

- Physical disabilities
- Intellectual disabilities
- Visual impairments
- Hearing impairments or who are Deaf
- Mental illness
- Traumatic brain injury
- Other health impairments

# Access and Functional Needs

- People who may or may not have a disability but who require goods or services which allow them to maintain their independence and safety



# Who May Need Functional Supports?

## *People who may have:*

- Physical disabilities
- Sensory disabilities
- Mental health, cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities
- Chronic health care needs

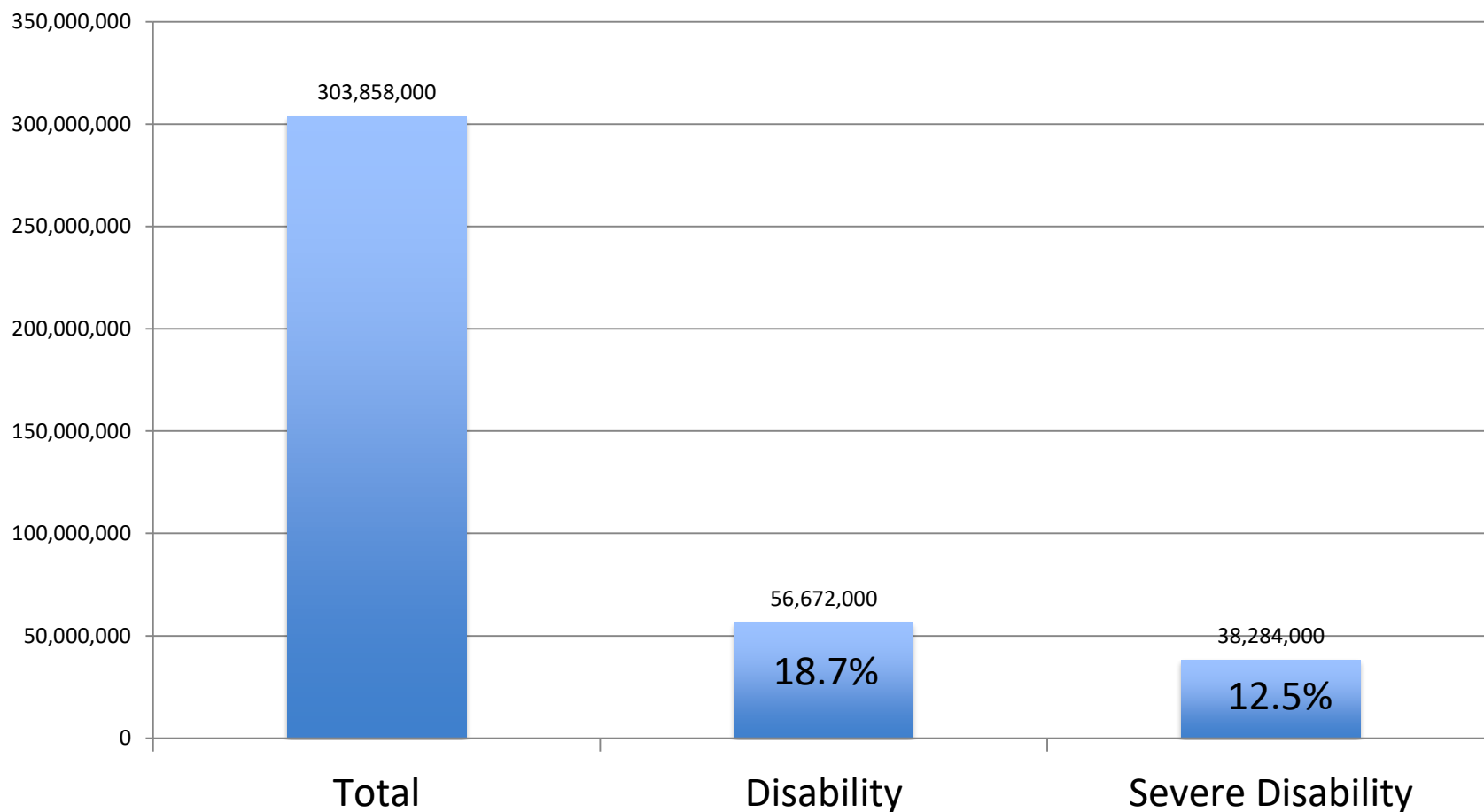
## *Others who might benefit could include:*

- Seniors
- Women in late stages of pregnancy
- Non-English speakers
- People who are homeless



Tanisha Blevin, 5, holds the hand of fellow Hurricane Katrina victim Nita LaGarde, 105, as they are evacuated from the Convention Center in New Orleans, La., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2005. (AP Photo/Eric Gay )

# Civilians Living in the Community



[These estimates are based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation \(SIPP\). These estimates are from Brault \(2012\), Americans with Disabilities: 2010 \(U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Reports, P70-131\), which also contains comparisons to 2005 estimates.](#)



From left to right:  
[http://www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/photo\\_details.do?id=18526](http://www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/photo_details.do?id=18526);  
[http://www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/photo\\_details.do?id=15343](http://www.photolibrary.fema.gov/photolibrary/photo_details.do?id=15343).



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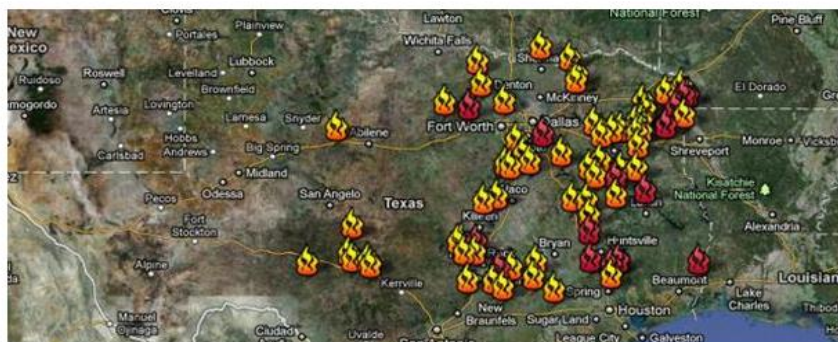
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# TIPS for First Responders (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)



# TIPS for First Responders-TX Edition



# Region VI Working Group

- Formed at the FEMA “Getting Real” Conference in 2010
- Focused on goals set as a group
- Biweekly phone conferences including disability organizations and emergency management organizations
- Identification of existing technology useful to emergency managers and first responders



## MOBILE TIPS for First Responders

**disabilitytips.tamu.edu**

...is a mobile-based site for first responders with detailed instructions and resources about helping people with disabilities or special needs. Each section of Mobile TIPS includes multiple instructions and real life scenarios.

*Mobile TIPS is coordinated by Project REDD, a part of the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University.*

### Informative sections included:

- |                           |                                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Mobility Impairments    | ■ Blindness or Visual Impairments |
| ■ Cognitive Disabilities  | ■ Service Animals                 |
| ■ Mental Illness          | ■ Seniors                         |
| ■ Autism                  | ■ Childbearing and Newborns       |
| ■ Deaf or Hard of Hearing | ■ Chemical Sensitivities          |
|                           | ■ General Tips                    |

*Remember to bookmark Mobile TIPS!*

**disabilitytips.tamu.edu**

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# Steps in Development

- Survey of emergency managers and VOADs to determine usage requirements and best platform
- Incorporation of several print-based materials
- Incorporation of web-based database
- Beta testing by emergency managers and disability community members



<http://disabilitytips.tamu.edu/>



# Tips

## for First Responders



Mobility Impairments

Cognitive Disabilities

Mental Illness

Autism

Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Blindness or Visual Impairments

**Service Animals**

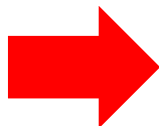
Seniors

Childbearing and Newborns

Chemical Sensitivities

General Tips

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# Service Animals

## People with Service Animals

**Always ask the person how you can best assist them.**

- Remember – a service animal is not a pet.
- Do not touch or give the animal food or treats without the permission of the owner.
- When a dog is wearing its harness, it is on duty. In the event you are asked to take the dog while assisting the individual, hold the leash and not the harness.
- Plan to evacuate the animal with the owner. Do not separate them!
- Service animals are not registered and there is no proof that the animal is a service animal. If the person tells you it is a service animal, treat it as such. However, if the animal is out of control or presents a threat to the individual or others, remove it from the site.
- A person is not required to give you proof of a disability that requires a service animal. You should accept the claim and treat the animal as a service animal. If you have doubts, wait until you arrive at your destination and address the issue with the supervisor in charge.

- The animal need not be specially trained as a service animal. People with psychiatric and emotional disabilities may have a companion animal. These are just as important to them as a service animal is to a person with a physical disability – please be understanding and treat the animal as a service animal.
- A service animal must be in a harness or on a leash, but need not be muzzled.

## Contacts for Services and Support:

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs  
512.891.9090 or 877-TEX-DOGS  
<http://www.servicedogs.org/aboutus/contact>  
Aggie Guide Dogs and Service Dogs  
<http://ags.tamu.edu>  
[AggieGuideandServiceDogs@gmail.com](mailto:AggieGuideandServiceDogs@gmail.com)

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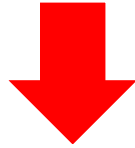


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<http://ags.tamu.edu>  
AggieGuideandServiceDogs@gmail.com

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**Aggie Guide-Dogs and Service-Dogs**  
Where Dogs Make The Difference

Home About Us Officers Our Dogs Calendar Membership Puppy Training Sponsorship Pictures FAQs

**Howdy, and Welcome to Aggie Guide-dogs and Service-dogs!**  
Submitted by ags on Mon, 09/10/2012 - 18:15

Howdy, everyone!

Be sure to check out the new FAQs section at the right hand side of the menu bar. If you have any questions about service dogs, AGS, or what we're all about, check out these lists of comprehensive questions and answers.

Meetings this semester are every other Wednesday at 7 pm in Room 5 of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH 5). At the meetings we hand out Paw Prints to make sure everyone knows what events we have coming up.

Socializations are every Monday at 5:30pm at the grassy field behind the Liberal Arts building. A short training session will take place at 5:15, and then we will turn the dogs loose to play. All friendly, vaccinated dogs are welcome to join us!

# Disability Acronyms

Tips

for First Responders

Mobility Impairments

Cognitive Disabilities

Mental Illness

Autism

Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Blindness or Visual Impairments

Service Animals

Seniors

Childbearing and Newborns

Chemical Sensitivities

General Tips

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## Disability Acronyms

ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADD	Administration on Developmental Disabilities
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
APS	Adult Protective Services (Division of DFPS)
AT	Assistive Technology
AUCD	Association of University Centers on Disabilities
CAP	Client Assistance Program
CBA	Community Based Alternatives (Medicaid waiver)
CIL	Center for Independent Living
CLASS	Community Living Assistance and Support Services
CMHRMCS	Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Centers
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
CP	Cerebral Palsy
DD	Developmental Disabilities
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
ECI	Early Childhood Intervention
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
HHS	Health and Human Services
ICF/MR	Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IHFS	In-Home and Family Support
ILC	Independent Living Center
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MDCP	Medically Dependent Children Program




PAS	Personal Assistance Services
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PDP	Person-Directed Planning
PT	Physical Therapy
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
QMRP	Qualified Mental Retardation Professional
SHIP	State Health Insurance Program
SILC	State Independent Living Council
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
TDD	Telecommunication Device for Persons with Hearing Loss
TTY	Teletypewriters for Persons with Hearing Impairments
UCEDD	University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
VAC	Vocational Adjustment Coordinator
VR	Vocational Rehabilitation
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children program

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# About Us

**Tips**  
for First Responders

	Mobility Impairments
	Cognitive Disabilities
	Mental Illness
	Autism
	Deaf or Hard of Hearing
	Blindness or Visual Impairments
	Service Animals
	Seniors
	Childbearing and Newborns
	Chemical Sensitivities
	General Tips


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**About Us** Project **REDD**

- The Mobile TIPS for First Responders was developed by Project REDD at the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University.
- Developers and contributors to the Mobile TIPS for First Responders were Laura M. Stough, Ph.D., Jaiganesh Lakshmisundaram, Elizabeth McAdams Ducey, Amy N. Sharp, Ph.D., and Briana Santiago at Texas A&M University. We thank members of the Region VI Disability Integration Group for their suggestions on test versions of the Mobile TIPS.
- The Mobile TIPS are adapted from Dr. Tony Cahill's 3rd Edition of the TIPS for First Responders, developed at the Center for Development and Disability at the University of New Mexico and from the TIPS for First Responders and Texas Resources for Services and Supports, developed at the Texas Center on Disability Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. We gratefully acknowledge the work of these colleagues on the print versions of the TIPS.
- For information about the Mobile TIPS, Project REDD, or general information about disaster and individuals with disabilities, please contact:

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*Photo by Kendall Kessel; April 2006*





*Photo by Kendall Kessel; April 2006*



# PROJECT REDD

## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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