

WRHSAC Functional & Access Needs Daily Response Planning

Disability Awareness Tips & Tools for First Responders

WRHSAC

Western Region Homeland
Security Advisory Council



Identified Gap

- Several exercises and real-world incidents revealed a regional gap in first responders' ability to meet the needs of some groups of people with disabilities
- Identified a need for increased:
 - Awareness
 - Tools and
 - Resources

Assessment & Research

- Surveys, interviews and focus groups with first responders, people with disabilities and personnel from human services agencies
- First responders noted a need for training to help with response
- People with disabilities noted stigma is one of the biggest obstacles when working with first responders
- All groups identified a need for field accessible resource manual/toolbox which can be consulted prior to and during response

Tips Tool

- WRHSAC sought to find an existing tool or build a new one

- Research led us to Mobile Tips for First Responders on Disabilities and Other Functional and Access Needs

created by

Center on Disability and Development

at Texas A&M University

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WRHSAC Tips Tool

Tips
for First Responders

WRHSAC
Western Region Hazardous
Materials Response
Security Advisory Council

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

TIPS Home
About Us
Massachusetts 211
Disability Info.org

The Mobile TIPS for First Responders was first developed by Project REDD at the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University.

www.wrhsac.org/disability-tips-tool/



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