Webinar Training Series

Emergency Management and Disaster Relief: Matching AT Needs Volunteer Training

www.passitoncenter.org
This webinar will address the key points for volunteers when matching equipment to survivors of emergencies and disasters. Presenters will address common challenges and lessons learned while addressing these important issues.

Additionally, we will highlight the Pass It On Center's online resources for AT & DME Reuse best practices.
Reutilized assistive technology, especially durable medical equipment, plays an important role in providing temporary devices to people with disabilities impacted by disasters that result in the loss of devices or create new needs.

The Pass It On Center (PIOC) works with AT Act Programs and their nonprofit affiliates in other states and territories to provide safe, appropriate interim devices until a new, permanent device becomes available.

PIOC partners with other organizations that serve individuals with disabilities to respond to disasters by identifying needs and collecting and distributing gently used devices.

We welcome the support of all organizations who would like to participate in our efforts.

Contact us | passitoncenter@gatfl.gatech.edu.
Visit Us Online
Knowledge Base

The Pass It On Center is actively addressing issues of national significance in AT device reallocation, providing technical assistance to entities engaged in or planning to engage in AT device reallocation, and coordinating and networking entities involved in AT device reallocation. This Knowledge Base is a product of the Center and contributes AT reuse programs throughout America.

Modules

- Emergency + Preparedness
- Finance
- Operations
- Stakeholders
- Organization

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Hurricane Harvey 2017
- Hurricane Irma 2017

EVENTS

There are no events at this time.

INDICATORS OR QUALITY FOR AT REUSE

Use our easy online tools to determine your AT Reuse Program’s progress toward the pre-existing practices of the Indicators of Quality for AT Reuse (IQATR).

Click the link to see the Online Program Assessment, IQATR. To view the Indicators of Quality for AT Reuse document, click here: PDF | .xml.

FIND REUSE LOCATIONS

Would you like to learn more about what your state is doing to reuse assistive technology for people with disabilities? Click on the map link to see the map on various locations of programs.

Are you a program that provides safe and appropriate reuse of assistive technology or durable medical equipment? Are you listed in the National Reuse Licensing Database? Register your program here.

If you would like to update your Reuse Organization information, enter here.
Indicators of Quality for AT Reuse
IQ-ATR
Welcome to the Pass It On Center wiki. The Pass It On Center continues to create national and state resources to foster the safe, effective and appropriate reuse of assistive technology (AT) so that people with disabilities can get the affordable AT they need in order to live, learn, work and play more independently in communities of their choice.

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Emergency Response in the Tri-State Region

Addressing the Needs of Individuals with Disabilities

Jamie Arasz Prioli, RESNA ATP
Ocean County College
Center for Student Success – Disability Services

www.ocean.edu
Pennsylvania – Hurricane Irene (Aug. 2011)

- 706,000 residents without power in Eastern PA
- Flood waters raised the Schuylkill River to levels not seen in 140 years
- Excessive winds brought tornado warnings – tree damage
CLIENT SCENARIO 1

Hurricane Irene

- Emergency responders received a call from “Claire”
- Assistive technology (AT) needs as reported by the emergency responders
- Service provider (AT Act) response
- Lesson “takeaway”
Pennsylvania – Tropical Storm Lee (Sept. 2011)

- 6 to 14 inches of rain throughout the state
- Most severe flooding throughout much of eastern PA
- Mandatory evacuations because of major flooding
- Bridges affected by high water
CLIENT SCENARIO 2

Tropical Storm Lee

- Emergency responders received a call from “Harold”

- Assistive technology (AT) needs as reported by the client/consumer

- Service provider (AT Act) response

- Lesson “takeaway”
New Jersey – Hurricane “Superstorm” Sandy (Oct. 2012)

- Over two million households lost power
- 346,000 homes were damaged or destroyed

- Immediately after landfall, another nor-easter was predicted for the following week.
  - November 7 much of the state experienced wet snow — power lines and tree limb damage
CLIENT SCENARIO 3

Hurricane “Superstorm” Sandy

- Emergency responders received a call from “Tynesia”
- Assistive technology (AT) needs as reported by the emergency responders
- Service provider (AT Act) response
- Lesson “takeaway”

- Flooding streets, tunnels and subway lines
- Massive power outages for several days
- Numerous homes and businesses were destroyed by fire
- Bellevue Hospital Center and a few other large hospitals were closed and evacuated.
- The storm damaged, destroyed, or severely flooded around 100,000 homes on Long Island
CLIENT SCENARIO 4

Hurricane “Superstorm” Sandy

Emergency responders received a call from “Christopher”

- Assistive technology (AT) needs as reported by the emergency responders
- Service provider response
- Lesson “takeaway”
Eastern Pennsylvania - (Nov. 2017)

- Five-alarm fire at a senior living facility
- Fire started before 11 p.m. and brought under control around 2 a.m.
- Fire quickly spread to multiple buildings.
- Over 125 residents were evacuated to nearby shelters
CLIENT SCENARIO

Eastern Pennsylvania - (Nov. 2017)

- Emergency responders placed call for assistance
- Assistive technology (AT) needs as reported by the emergency responders
- Service provider response
- Lesson “takeaway”
MY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Identifying Needs and Matching Devices to the Needs of Disaster Survivors

Jamie Landry Karam
November 2017
Identify Needs

Talk & Observe

• Always talk to and observe disaster survivors first.
• If someone is having trouble walking, speaking, reading, hearing, or accomplishing any task, ask about it & get as much info as you can.
• Ask if he/she used a device before & if it was lost or destroyed during the disaster.
• There might be more than one limitation/need/device.
• Main goal is maintaining or regaining health, safety, & independence, & accomplishing everyday tasks.
**Identify Needs**

**Questions to Ask**

- Introduce yourself & state your goal(s).
- Are you doing okay? Do you have what you need to be healthy, safe, and do what you need to do?
- If the answer is no, get more info on problem & what is needed.
- Don’t promise anything; say you’ll try to help by working on a solution & meeting the need or referring them; Follow up with them or referral.
- Get a name and a way to contact them.
- Ask for permission to discuss their need & refer.
Walking/Mobility

Remember

• Ask if they used a device for mobility.
• If none, observe the need & ask what they think they need: a cane, a walker, or a wheelchair.
• The lower tech/less involved the device is, the easier/quicker it is to match, find, provide, & fit; Better for possibility of functional improvement, too.
• Ask for their height & weight; Tell them accurate (or as close to it) numbers are important to proper matching & fit of a device; Want to help, not harm.
Walking/Mobility

Canes

- Need a small amount of support for stability & walking safely? A height-adjustable single prong cane is helpful.
- Need more support than a single prong cane provides, but not as much as a walker provides? A height-adjustable quad cane is a good choice. “Quad” refers to 4 feet or prongs coming from a base. Remember height & weight are factors to a proper match.
- Adjust the height so that the hand of the side needing more support rests on the cane’s handle & the arm is slightly bent & comfortable.
- Position the side of the quad cane’s base that has the 2 feet/prongs that stick out farther from the base (farther than the other 2 feet stick out) on the outer side, away from the person.
- All canes are used for support on the side that needs it the most.
Walking/Mobility

Images of Canes
Walkers

- Walkers provide more support than canes, help keep you safer while walking, which helps you remain more active.
- Walkers are easier to fit/match than wheelchairs are, take up less space in your environment, and are easier to transport.
- For a little more all-over walking support than a quad cane provides, a regular folding cane with 2 front wheels is helpful.
- Walkers can be height-adjustable, folding, and come in different sizes to support various heights and weights.
- It’s also called a walking frame, because you should keep within the frame of support when you walk.
Walking/Mobility

Images of Walkers
Rollator Walkers

- Rollator walkers are walkers with 4 wheels, hand brakes, seats, and sometimes a basket or bag.
- Most fold, but not as compactly, and are height-adjustable; made in regular and heavy duty sizes to accommodate different weights.
- Squeeze brakes to slow or stop; pull down both handles to put on brakes before sitting down on the seat or standing back up.
- Great for rests during longer stretches of walking.
Walking/Mobility

Rollators
Wheeled Mobility

Wheelchairs

- Wheelchairs are for people who can barely walk for more than a few steps or can’t walk at all.
- Manual wheelchairs are those in which people usually roll themselves and have 2 small wheels in the front and 2 big wheels behind that are used to roll around.
- Transport (wheel)chairs have 4 smaller wheels and are used to push people around for transportation purposes; the larger the wheels are, the more comfortable the ride.
• Wheelchairs come in children’s sizes, youth, standard, and heavy duty (or bariatric); they have different seat sizes and are designed for different weight capacities.
• For temporary wheelchair provision during disasters, no customizations are usually available, but there are some “musts”: foot plates, brakes, arm rests, seat belts, & anti-tip bars.
• Some options are sometimes necessary: elevating leg rests, reclining backs, seat cushions, lateral supports...
Wheeled Mobility

Images of Wheelchairs
Wheeled Mobility

Proper Fit

• Weight of person is important; make certain of weight limit of wheelchair or transport chair.

• Seat width is important; measure widest part of hips under person while sitting – number cannot exceed width of chair’s seat; a little wiggle room is better.

• Seat depth is also important – place measuring tape under sitting person, beginning behind knee and measure to back of buttocks. Chair’s seat depth needs to be less than this number so circulation isn’t stopped.
Wheeled Mobility

Quick Measuring
Other Device Needs

Toileting & Bathing

• All-in-one bedside commode – can be used as a commode, raised toilet seat, & toilet safety frame. (Can also be used as a shower chair in a pinch.)

• Shower chair – with and without arms and back.

• Tub transfer bench

• Height-adjustable with different weight limits.

• Others: reclining bath cot, reclining power bath lift chair, etc.
Other Device Needs

Images of Toileting & Bathing
Other Disaster Device Needs

Considerations

- Hearing – personal amplifier, phone amplifier, video phone, TTY (old tech)
- Vision – lighted magnifiers, “cheater” glasses, task light, video magnifiers and scanning/reading machines
- Environmental access – threshold ramp, doorknob lever adapter, lower pressure/force to open doors
- Aids to Daily Living – adapted eating, grooming, & writing tools, reacher/grabber, lifting cushion
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