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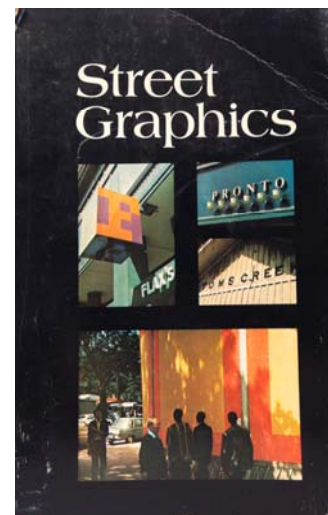


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How About a New “App”?

*By Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA, Sr.
Building Code Specialist, NFPA*

Information about fire and life safety are more important to people with disabilities than most other people because they have trouble accessing the information they need about any emergency and they have more difficulty navigating the built environment if they need to evacuate. Many years ago I read a fascinating book entitled *Street Graphics*. It lays out model rules and regulations for signs seen from the street based on Princeton psychologist, George A. Miller's research (Miller, 1956) that the human eye can only process seven items of information per second. While its goal is to curtail the informational overload from signage while we're driving, its basis and message fits perfectly with both how we need better systems to communicate with and to build better emergency plans for people with disabilities.



In *Street Graphics*, author William R. Ewald writes “.....over time street graphics have built up a tremendous overload of graphic signals in the environment. Because we are an automobile-dominated society, sorting through this overload is a task anyone moving through traffic in an automobile must face. Not only the load of graphic signals and their various specific messages, but the design of each street graphic is a part of this sorting out process—a task compounded by the purpose of the street graphic. That purpose may be to *index* just where to find a particular function or service, or to *sell* a product or service not to be found at that particular location.

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In the effort to compete for the attention of the automobile occupants, business proprietors erect increasingly larger and more garish signs, screaming for attention and at the same time attempting to convey more information than it is possible for someone in a moving car to use. The signs thus tend to defeat their own purpose." (WilliamR. Ewald, 1971)

And so it is in so many cases with how we provide notification of emergencies and related information including, but not limited to: routes to escape, shelters, assistance, and on and on. They either don't get the information they need or they are overloaded with information including unrelated information that they have to sort and process.



Interpreter Robin Babb, Stevie Wonder and Mussie Gebre at CSUN Conference

This issue became remarkably clear to me during a wonderfully enlightening conversation I had with a young man named Mussie Gebre at the 29th CSUN Conference on Technology

and People with Disabilities in San Diego, California this past March. He was very concerned about the lack of equipment, systems and/or devices that would alert him to emergencies in his apartment and to provide him with information as to whether or not he needs to leave, the route to get out and where he can go for shelter if he needs it.

He recounted an incident not too long ago when the fire alarm was activated in his building and the only reason he knew about it and was able to evacuate was that a neighbor came and got him out. He told me that he thought all buildings were required to have equipment, systems and/or devices to alert him. He asked me why it's not enforced. I knew the legal answer, but that just didn't seem adequate to me.

Mussie is a very personable, knowledgeable and articulate young man who also happens to be DeafBlind. In face to face communication, Mussie receives information by tactually accessing ASL, American Sign Language, and expresses his thoughts using ASL. Think Helen Keller. Through the incredible skill, passion and caring of his interpreter, Robin Babb, Mussie captivated me, and others as we stood there watching and listening, for more than fifteen minutes.

As I watched his face and listed to his words spoken by Robin, I

all but forgot that he was DeafBlind. His story further opened my eyes for the need to design and build better and more inclusive systems for warning everyone for all types of emergencies and for providing them with ongoing information related to the emergency regardless of their abilities or disabilities. I was actually feeling embarrassed as I explained to him that with few exceptions, such as NFPA 101[®] *Life Safety Code*[®], codes are generally not retroactive under the US Constitution. A Constitution that is intended to protect the rights of all Americans.

According to a Wall Street Journal article in 1999, "In 1995, according to the latest available census figures, there were about 48.5 million people 15 and older with disabilities in the U.S., with annual discretionary Income totaling \$175 billion. With last month's passing of the Work Incentives Improvement Act, a bill expected to funnel tens of thousands of disabled people into the work force, their purchasing power will only grow.

Other advocates for the disability community say they prefer products and services to be spurred by profit potential, not by compliance. And targeting people with disabilities for purely altruistic reasons "isn't going to get the return on investment," says Cheryl Duke, president of W.C. Duke Associates Inc. a disability-consulting

NEWSLETTER

firm in Woodford, Va. "If you do it because it's a moneymaking project, it will continue." (Prager, 1999)

A couple of years ago, I suggested to some fire alarm engineers and manufacturers that they might use the fire alarm wiring, present in most buildings over 20,000 square feet, to send emergency information about all types of emergencies to personal "smart" devices like phones, tablets, notebooks or portable braille displays, that now receive severe weather alerts and "Amber" alerts. Such information might also include interior "maps", like GPS signals, using CAD drawings and text messages with vital information to the same types of devices in formats accessible to the owner. An 'app' designed to work with the electronic devices most of us are yoked to now days might be used to convey close to real time emergency information. Coupled with other information technologies from within the building and from regional emergency managers, another tool, or another road sign, might help us sort through the stream of information that comes our way during an emergency event.

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Companies See a Market Ripe for All-Terrain Wheelchairs, Computers With 'Sticky Keys'. *The Wall Street Journal*. New York, New York.

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DISABILITY LAW CENTER, INC.



For over 30 years, the Disability Law Center has been protecting the rights of citizens with disabilities by advocating for equal rights for all people with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Disability Law Center

(DLC) is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. DLC is a private, non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities. DLC receives federal, state and private funding but is not part of the state or federal government.

This year the DLC's annual fundraiser, awards ceremony, and silent auction will be held on **Tuesday, June 17th, 2014 at The Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge, Massachusetts.**

This year, DLC is proud to honor several outstanding community leaders who have significantly improved the quality of life for people with disabilities in Massachusetts:

Edward M.

Kennedy Leadership Award
Jim Brett, President and CEO,
NE Business Council

Civil Rights Advocacy Award

Francis X. Bellotti, Former
Attorney General

Unsung Hero Award

David J. Holway, NAGE
National President

Individual Leadership Award

Ashley Wolfe

You Make a Difference Award

James M. Shannon, NFPA
President

Please help DLC celebrate the disability rights movement by not only honoring these outstanding leaders, but by also recognizing yourself and the important role you play in bettering the lives of individuals with disabilities through your support of DLC.

For more information, please contact the office at 617-723-8455

Click here for [Disability Law Center of Massachusetts Open Invitation](#)

DARAC 

(Disability Access Review and
Advisory Committee)

NFPA's Disability Access
Review and Advisory Committee
(DARAC) will meet June 8th and 9th at:

Mandalay Bay Convention Center
Room: Palm A
Las Vegas, NV

The meeting coincides with the NFPA Conference and Expo being held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. The meeting is open to the public and is scheduled for Sunday, June 8th at 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Monday, June 9th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with the following agenda:

DARAC

(Disability Access Review and
Advisory Committee)

Draft Agenda

(Rev. 4-29-14)

Mandalay Bay Convention Center

Palm "A" & "B"

Las Vegas, NV

Sunday, June 8th, (all day) and Monday,
June 9th, (thru lunch), 2014

- 1) 8:30 a.m.- Breakfast (both mornings, lunch both days)
- 2) 9:00 a.m. - Call to order by Chair Toby Olson.
- 3) Self - Introductions
- 4) Announcements
 - a) Group dinner Sunday night at Wolfgang Puck's *Trattoria del Lupo*, Mandalay Bay, 1st floor
- 5) Approval of Minutes –
 - a) June 9-10, 2013 Meeting in Chicago (Attached)
- 6) Draft of NFPA 1616: Standard for Mass Evacuation and Sheltering (Attached) –
 - a) Discussion and preparation of comments for the June 23, 2014 deadline
- 7) Proposed New NFPA project: "Professional Practices for Facility Fire Safety Planning and Fire Safety Directors: (Attached)
 - i) Discuss and prepare comments for the Standards Council's August meeting.
- 8) Updates on NFPA activities and initiatives:
 - a) Programs here in Las Vegas
 - b) Accessibility Expo
 - c) Number of booths
 - d) Informational Presentations
 - e) New banner
 - f) OSU CD
 - g) e-ACCESS (URL on Post card)
 - h) Ideas, thoughts, criticisms
 - i) "Guides" and related seminars & Information
 - j) Residential Sprinkler Initiative
 - k) NFPA 101/5000
 - i) Visitability (Type "C" Units)
 - ii) Elevators
 - iii) Stair descent devices
 - l) Articles
 - i) Campus Fire Safety
 - m) 29th CSUN Conference on Technology & People with Disabilities
 - i) Sessions
 - ii) Booth
 - n) Keynote presentation to Joint Training for the Sargent-at-Arms staffs of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House – April, 2014
 - o) 2014 National ADA Symposium
 - p) 2013 NFPA Backyards & Beyond Conference
 - i) "Spotlight Session": Evacuation Planning For People with Disabilities
 - q) Abilities Expo – Boston
 - i) Sept. 2013 "Evacuating Safely-One Size Doesn't Fit All!"
 - ii) Submitted for Sept. 2014, "Are You Part of the 20% of the Population Being

NEWSLETTER

exposition features products and information sessions designed to empower people with disabilities and their families, friends, and caregivers, as well as building managers, supervisors, and first responders, to help improve the quality of life and safety of people with disabilities far beyond those specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The first Accessibility Expo at last year's NFPA Conference & Expo in Chicago was a huge success.



"Fire and life safety may be more important to people with disabilities than others because of the barriers to accessing information and the physical barriers in the built environment," says Allan Fraser, senior building code specialist and staff liaison to NFPA's Presidential Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee. "With each passing day, I marvel at new technological

Ignored in Evacuation Planning?"

- 9) NFPA's High Rise Building Safety Advisory Committee – Kristin Bigda, Staff Liaison will join us via Skype to talk about the committee's newly published guidelines on creating an Emergency Action Plan for All-Hazard Emergencies (Attached).

- 10) NFPA Public Education Division update on agendas, plans for products, information and programs related to people with disabilities – Division Manager Judy Comoletti, Lisa Braxton - (9:00pm Monday-Confirmed)

- 11) Visit from incoming NFPA president and CEO, Jim Pauley. (10:00am Monday-Confirmed)

- 12) Update on RESNA's "new" product standard: RESNA ED-1: Stair Evacuation Devices. (10:30am Monday - Glenn Hedman-Confirmed)

- 13) ICC/ANSI A117.1 Update:

- 14) New Business

- a) Bylaw revisions task group
- b) Fire Protection Research Foundation. Amanda Kimball (Sunday, 12:00pm-1:00 pm Confirmed)
 - Fire Alarms and People with ASD: A Literature Summary
 - Fire Alarms and People with ASD: A Literature Summary Activity
 - Fire Alarms and At Risk Populations

c) Membership

d) Other

- 15) Dates/Location for Next Meeting(s) and/or Conference Calls

- 16) Adjournment



Come see the second
NFPA Accessibility
Expo in Las Vegas,
NV, June 9–11, 2014



The second Accessibility Expo will co-locate with [2014 NFPA Conference & Expo](http://www.nfpa.org/e-access) at Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, from June 9 to 11. This

advancements, particularly those that improve access to information and communications, and allow people with disabilities to be more empowered with respect to their own safety."



We're featuring vendors' whose innovations enable people with disabilities so that users, safety managers, caregivers, first responders, and vendors can all connect and interact. Supporting Accessibility Expo will be a series of informational presentations in the exhibitors theater on the Expo floor as well as conference sessions addressing one or more of the five categories of disability—mobility, vision, hearing, speech, and cognitive—and the creative and common sense best practices and solutions available.

Formal educational sessions include:

- The 2015 Edition of ANSI/ICC A117.1, Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities

- Human Behavior in Fire Research Planning Workshop
- A Case Study: The First Fire Service Access Elevator Installed in San Francisco
- Challenges of Planning for Mass Evacuation
- Missing 20 Percent of Your Population When Planning for Emergency Evacuations?
- Lessening Your Liability: Emergency Shelter Planning for Those with Functional Needs
- Firefighters and Home Fire Safety Solutions for People with Disabilities
- Ergonomic Evaluation of Stair Descent Devices: Final Results and Device Demonstration
- Autism Awareness for First Responders
- Remembering When™: A Fall and Fire Prevention Program for Older Adults

Examples of the informational sessions in the exhibitor's theater on the expo floor include, but are not limited to:

- Reaching the Whole Community: Examining Website Accessibility
- Accessible Hotel Guest Rooms for Persons who are Hard of Hearing or Deaf
- Augmentative and Alternative Communications

- Using Mobile Learning, APPS and Job Aids to Enhance Response and Recovery for People with Disabilities
- Assistive Devices for Special Populations



Get more top-notch instruction for less with [NFPA®'s Webinars](http://NFPA.org/Webinars).

[Wrap Up on the 29th CSUN Conference on Technology & People with Disabilities](#)

By: Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA,
Senior Building Code Specialist

The 29th Annual CSUN (California State University at Northridge) Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities was a wonderful opportunity for NFPA to

again reach out to this community. The simple fact is that, for people with disabilities, being prepared for fire and life safety emergencies is even more important than it is for the rest of the population because it is much harder for them to access safety information and to navigate the built environment during emergencies.

This was the sixth year that I have attended the CSUN Conference as NFPA's representative and each year it's grown in scope, in the number of attendees, in content, and in its influence as the largest event of its type in the world.



This year, there were more than 370 general sessions and workshops, more than 130 exhibitors, and over 5,000 participants from all 50 states, numerous territories, and more than 35 foreign countries.

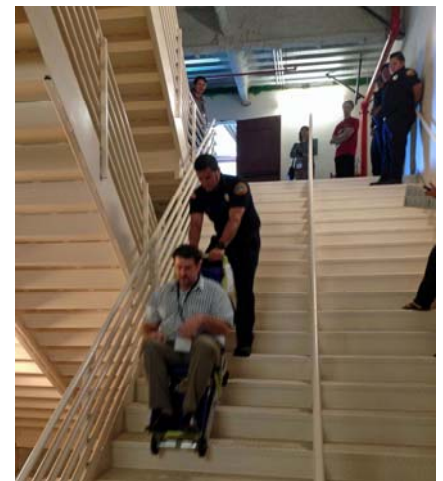
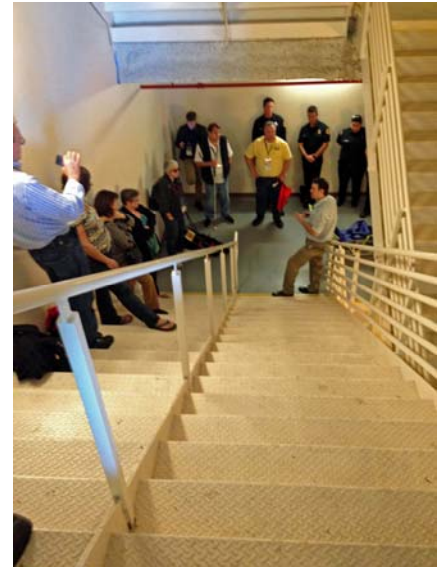


I talked with well over 100 people at NFPA's booth explaining our mission, work, and activities in the disability community. I also presented a session entitled *Evacuating Safely—One Size Doesn't Fit All* to over 50 people based on NFPA's extensively downloaded and widely used *Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities*®.



Later in the week, Garavanta's Trevor de Jaray and I presented an education session entitled *When Elevators Don't Work, Emergency Stair Devices Do!*

We had a great group of attendees that included, among others paramedics, fire fighters, and university emergency managers.



*Stair chair in action at
2014 - 29th CSUN
education session*

(Be patient, it may take a minute)



Each year the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the Office of the House Sergeant at Arms host a joint access and functional needs planning seminar and invite keynote speakers to present to Senate and House staff on the importance for planning for our staff and constituent's with access and functional needs.

This year's session, entitled *2014 Emergency Planning for Individuals with Access & Functional Needs* was held on April 17th in one of the meeting rooms in the Capitol Visitors Center. Presentations were given by Daniel Dodgen, Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; Kathleen Otte of the U.S.

Department of Health & Human Services-Administration on Aging; Dr. John Thompson and Brian Baker from the District of Columbia's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and Allan Fraser of the National Fire Protection Assoc., Inc. (NFPA). The approximately 80 staff members in attendance were quite engaged and asked a number of questions as well as taking time after the event to talk with the presenters.

NFPA will also have a booth at the Capitol's *Emergency Preparedness Fair* in September.

Emergency RegistriesJust Because You Know Where I Live, Doesn't Mean You Know Where I Am!

Part 1 of an interview with June Isaacson Kailes



The idiom "the devil is in the detail" expresses the idea that whatever one does should be done thoroughly—that is, details are important. This clearly applies to registries.

The establishment of registries was one of the early preparedness efforts the emergency management community made to improve its response to the specific needs of persons with disabilities during disasters. Emergency related registries vary in form, but, in theory, they all try to collect the names, locations, and contact information of people in a given area or jurisdiction who are likely to need help with evacuation and shelter.



Unfortunately, users report that registries often yield mixed to negative results. Not only are they expensive to build and difficult to maintain, but they imply that responders will come to help you when, in mid- to large-scale disasters, that is generally not the case. When asked to discuss their experience with registries, most who had used one listed problems and most reported that registries were just not working.

e-ACCESS wanted to know more about the current thinking on registries, so we talked with June Isaacson Kailes. June operates a Disability Policy Consulting practice and is the Associate Director of the [Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy](#) at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California. In the early 1980s, June was one of just a handful of people with disabilities who focused on disability- and aging-related emergency issues. She works on emergency issues internationally; with local, state, local, and federal agencies; with community-based organizations; and with an array of other emergency managers, planners, and contractors. She is a writer, trainer, researcher, policy analyst, expert witness, and advocate.



June is well known for her many practical publications about integrating people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency planning, response, and recovery. She is also known for her pioneering work in conceiving, promoting, and moving the emergency

management world from the vague "special needs" focus to an access and [functional needs approach](#) to planning and response.

e-ACCESS: June, please describe the type of registry on which you are currently focusing.

JLK: Some communities offer people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs the chance to register for emergency assistance. I focus on those registries that are designed as lists that a government agency or other organizations maintains to move people out of a dangerous area; check on their health and safety; provide a priority warning when possible regarding shutting off power or water service, and connecting people with other viable and available supports and resources.

e-ACCESS: What sparked your interest in these types of registries?

JLK: My motivation stemmed from the pervasiveness of support for registries—many people seem to totally support them blindly without looking at all the critical details, such as how they are constructed and how they operate. These supporters do not seem to need any proof that they work or that they are effective in real emergencies. People often point to registries as being simple and sound solutions for assisting people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs during

emergencies, but we need to be sure that they really are. I want to get assistance effectively to those who need it.

e-ACCESS: Do you know of any registries that work?

JLK: Do you mean do I have any documented evidence that registries have made a difference in protecting people's lives, health, and safety? No, I don't. Many sources refer to registries as a model intervention but don't offer any accompanying evidence or guidance.

For emergency planning to work, we must get beyond the symbolic and think through all the implications and complexities of registries in a comprehensive, thorough, and realistic way. Registries may seem like a simple way to address the needs of what is mistakenly perceived of as a small segment of the population, but they are anything but simple.



Those who develop registries should look at the complex relationship between:

- A registrant's expectation and the responder's capacity;
- The civil rights of the registrant and the responsibilities of jurisdictions;
- Resource investment and anticipated outcome;
- [Symbolic planning](#) and real, actionable planning.

e-ACCESS: What is symbolic planning?

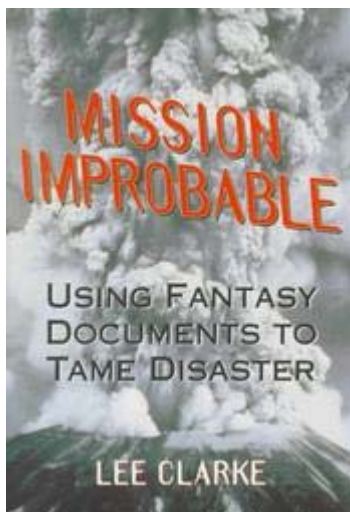
JLK: By that I mean planning that cannot achieve objectives even though it is well-intentioned. Symbolic planning is the opposite of realistic, practical planning. It is a sort of fantasized planning usually composed of check-off boxes that have no real meaning or value. It is composed of guesses based on untried, undocumented, or unsuccessful practices.

A classic example is the April 20, 2010, gas leak and explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven people died as a result of the accident, and others were injured. The fire burned for 36 hours before the rig sank, and hydrocarbons leaked into the Gulf of Mexico before the well was closed and sealed. Ultimately, the company's emergency

functions failed to seal the well after the initial explosions.



As Lee Clark discussed in his book *Mission Improbable*, there was a cleanup plan for spills in the sound, but this massive spill was unprecedented, and the accepted policy was little more than a patchwork of guesses based on mostly unsuccessful cleanups after smaller accidents.



Most, if not all, access and functional needs registries have similar systemic problems. A registry in an existing plan may sound good, but it may not be able to achieve its well-intentioned objectives for two major reasons. First, the response capacity has

not been considered or calculated based on size of potential events. And second, the simple fact of knowing where people live doesn't tell you where they are at the time of the event.

The former presumes that there are enough responders to act in the case of mid- to large-scale events when there are not. The latter wastes critical resources and time as responders look for people in the wrong places, which helps neither the responder nor the evacuee.

e-ACCESS: But it seems there are people in the disability community who support these registries.

JLK: One common problem related to registries is the phenomenon I call "magical thinking." This occurs because most people do not want to think about emergencies. Most people don't pay attention to emergency details until they need to, just as we don't pay attention to the details of health insurance, or using a fire extinguisher, or shutting off the water, or opening a gate or garage door during a power outage.



Many people also find it disturbing to think about large-scale, Katrina-like events. It is much easier to think that the government will automatically be there to help.

Ironically, the more often we have emergencies, the better off we tend to be in our planning. Freshness of memory is a great motivator to think through the effectiveness of plans and supplies. It tends to counteract "magical thinking." In parts of this country where large-scale emergencies seldom occur or have not occurred in many years, significantly less time is spent on the details of emergency plans.

When you do the math, though, it is clear that in a large-scale emergency, the country simply does not have the capacity to respond to large events. The US population is approximately 313,914,040,¹ and there are approximately 2,773,500 first responders—1,082,500 firefighters², 800,000 law enforcement officials³, and 891,000 EMS professionals⁴. That is just 0.88% of the population or, at best, 1 first responder for every 113 people. Since approximately 20% of the population has disabilities, about 23 of

those 113 people per first responder have disabilities.

Add to that the fact that many people ignore the disclaimers that are part of most registries: "*Signing up DOES NOT guarantee help will be available before, during, or immediately after an emergency.*" People simply believe that signing up guarantees that assistance will be provided

Registries may also diminish or even divert the energy people should devote to developing their own personal preparedness plans, such as making the effort to think through and take appropriate steps to establish and keep current personal support systems.

e-ACCESS: So are you saying registries don't work?

JIK: I think the answer is crystal clear: No, current registries don't work!

A colleague, Philmont M. Taylor, commander of the Emergency Services Division of Los Alamos, New Mexico, said it eloquently:



"A registry will not be effective if it is used as the primary planning tool for populations with access and functional needs. Believe it or not, many emergency planners look at registries, spreadsheets, lists, tables, and matrices as a sort of planning panacea. Neat columns and rows replete with filled-in data fields are de-facto substitutes for substantive information. All too often, tabular data is accepted without any real analysis on the part of plan reviewers. So long as the key words appear in the heading boxes and some degree of descriptive "stuff" is visible in the appropriate columns/rows, the "plan" passes muster."

The emergency world still believes in registries, but there is no documented evidence that registries have made a difference in protecting people's lives, health, and safety. For one thing, a registry is always incomplete and includes only a small percentage of the population. What do we do for all the people who don't register?

Registries might work where there is plenty of warning time, as in slowly developing events including extreme heat or cold, hurricanes, and floods. But we know that registries don't work for events for which there is little or no warning, such as tornados, tsunamis,

¹ <http://www.census.gov/popclock/> July 13, 2012

² <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

³ http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2009/data/table_74.html

⁴ http://www.the-aaa.org/media/ambulance_facts.html

earthquakes, terrorist attacks, chemical spills, and nuclear accidents



Registries might also work as an enhancement to a 911 database. Information could be available about members of a household, including all phone numbers (mobile, landline or VOIP) and information about residents' disabilities, chronic conditions, medications, service animals, vehicles, pets, and emergency contacts. When someone in a household calls 911, their data is displayed to the 911 call taker and can be used to facilitate the proper response to the specific location.

We do know that registries work well for small events such as a house fire. But we need to plan equally well for real larger events, to paraphrase said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. We need to plan for the larger, catastrophic events where a registry response would be doubtful and would likely fail.

Ironically, the more often we have emergencies, the better off we tend to be in our planning. Freshness of

memory is a great motivator to think through the effectiveness of plans and supplies. It tends to counteract "magical thinking." In parts of this country where large-scale emergencies seldom occur or have not occurred in many years, significantly less time is spent on the details of emergency preparedness plans.

e-ACCESS: So what are some of the other limitations of registries?

JIK: Registries are labor-intensive to develop and update, and sustainability is a major problem in today's volatile economic climate. Typically, we tend to underestimate response capacity and resources.

My study of the field also shows that some registries are developed using old concepts, old technology, and old medical model biases about people with disabilities or access and functional needs. Most people with disabilities are not homebound and may not be home at the time of an emergency or situation for which they originally registered. Fixed location registries can mean wasted trips and wasted time for overstretched first responders. Efficiencies are needed to modernize how people signal for help in real time when needed.

According to the *New York World*, 658 people in Suffolk County

Long Island were on a registry maintained by county's Office of Emergency Management. Before and after Hurricane Sandy hit, volunteers placed 4,000 calls to the people on the list and their emergency contacts. In all, responders only evacuated 130 people on the list from flood-prone areas.⁵



In addition, many people with disabilities will not sign up for registries because they worry about their privacy; fear being tagged as vulnerable; are concerned about their legal status or that of their family members; or fear losing independence. There are many more reasons, which I have documented on my [web site](#).

e-ACCESS: June, I know you're a big technology person. Any hope there?

JIK: Better use of technology in the future does hold great promise. Access to the internet for the majority of the population is increasing rapidly with new devices being released almost every day. In this world of shrinking budgets, scarce responder resources

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<http://www.thenewyorkworld.com/2013/01/16/disaster-registries/>

need to be used wisely and as efficiently as possible, so we must incorporate the use of these new technologies.



Interior of the City's Emergency Operations Center

In 2004, for example, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management conducted research on the costs of developing and implementing a voluntary registry. According to their research, a registry program in LA would require 14 full-time staff members, including 10 analysts, 2 employees to do geographic information system (GIS) mapping, and 2 administrative assistants. The total cost was estimated at just under \$1.4 million per year for the first three years of the program, with two-thirds of the funds going towards staff and the remaining one-third for technology.

Editor's Note: Ms. Kailes had much more to say about how we might potentially harness technologies to supplement scarce resources effectively and efficiently. That will be covered in the next issue of e-ACCESS in September 2014

e-ACCESS: In addition to technology, have you thought about other options that may be helpful?

JIK: How effectively government can partner with, and leverage, the resources of community organizations and businesses will determine the success of the response. For example, community-based organizations can help individuals during large emergencies by developing a "priority emergency consumer/client contact list" that would be used for a check-in system to reach out to those who have self-identified as having the greatest need for assistance. This can include people who are geographically isolated; lack viable support networks, such as relatives, friends, and neighbors; cannot use or understand or be reached by existing alert and notification systems; or are transportation-dependent.

Life-safety wellness checks could be conducted for those who are sheltering in place alone in their homes and do not need life-saving search and rescue. These checks could be used to provide such people with essential items, such as water, food, medications, supplies, evacuation, and transportation for health care (such as dialysis), medications, batteries, waste disposal, home health, and personal assistant services.

Any plan would have to be specify who will do these check ins,

such as National Guard, public health workers, *Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)*, non-government organizations, *Functional Assistance Support Teams (FAST)*, mail carriers, and so on.



e-ACCESS: Any final words of advice?

JIK: Readers need to proceed cautiously and carefully before endorsing or advocating for the use of a registry. Push back. Ask the hard questions. What is realistic? Don't settle for symbolic planning. Don't be naïve regarding registries. Plan for the government not being there. Strengthen your own support teams.

e-ACCESS: Where can readers go for more information?

JIK: Most of what we discussed can be found on my web pages:

["Emergency Registries for People with Access and Functional Needs"](#)

The site includes:

- [What Is a Registry?](#)

- [Access and Functional Needs Emergency Registry Assessment Tool](#) intended for any jurisdiction or potential registry sponsor considering the development or continuation of a registry as part of its emergency management tools. Registries continue to be recommended and, in some places, required. Until objective research is available, this tool is intended to help evaluate whether a registry will achieve the desired objectives and to help in deciding if, where, and when a registry could be effective.

- [Flowchart: Deciding to Use an Access and Functional Needs Emergency Registry](#)
- [Stakeholder Opinions of Access and Functional Needs Emergency Registries](#)
- [Access and Functional Needs Emergency Registry Websites](#) links to examples of registry websites.
- [Papers, Presentations, Webinars and Resources](#)



By definition, a collection is a group of objects or works to be seen, studied, or kept together. The purpose of this column is to provide you with links to news items, stories, and general information that you may not be aware of but that may help you reduce the burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of your own life or that of family and friends.

- [Caregiver Tries to Save Women Killed in Group Home Fire](#)
- [Mentally disabled residents hurt in boarding home fire](#)
- [1 hurt in DeKalb high-rise apartment fire](#)
- [At least 3 dead in Jersey shore motel fire; 8 hurt](#)

NFPA Coming Events

June 2014

- [All NFPA Seminars this month](#)
- [All Electrical Seminars this month](#)
- [All NFPA 70E® Seminars this month](#)
- [All Fire Alarm & Signaling Code Seminars this month](#)
- [All Automatic Sprinkler Seminars this month](#)

- [All Life Safety Code® Seminars this month](#)
- [All Health Care Seminars this month](#)
- [All Certified Fire Protection Specialist Seminars this month](#)

- Jun. 2-3 NFPA Training Seminar – [Hydraulic Calculations](#), Singapore
- Jun. 2-6 NFPA Training Seminars, [Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)
- Jun. 4-6 NFPA training Seminar – [Sprinkler Design & Installation Storage Occupancy](#), Singapore

Jun. 9-12



[Conference & Expo](#), Las Vegas, NV.

The year's largest and most important event for the fire protection, life safety, and electrical industries is the NFPA Conference & Expo, widely regarded as the most comprehensive event in the industry.

Jun. 9



Cafeh/ Canada

[NFPA Conference & Expo](#), Las Vegas, NV. Canadian Luncheon 11:00am-12:30 pm. [Registration required](#) Canadians only.

Jun. 26

[Fire Safety in Green Buildings](#) webinar, 12:30-2 pm EST. Sponsored by [The Fire Protection Foundation](#).

July 2014

- [All NFPA Seminars this month](#)
- [All Electrical Seminars this month](#)

- [All NFPA 70E® Seminars this month](#)
- [All Fire Alarm & Signaling Code Seminars this month](#)
- [All Automatic Sprinkler Seminars this month](#)
- [All Life Safety Code® Seminars this month](#)
- [All Health Care Seminars this month](#)
- [All Certified Fire Protection Specialist Seminars this month](#)

Jul. 7-11 NFPA Training Seminars, [Indianapolis, IN](#)

Jul. 21-25 NFPA Training Seminars, [San Francisco, CA](#)

Future NFPA Conference & Expo dates

June 9–12, 2014, [Mandalay Bay Convention Center](#), Las Vegas, NV

June 22–25, 2015, [McCormick Place Convention Center](#), Chicago, IL

June 6–9, 2016, [Mandalay Bay Convention Center](#), Las Vegas, NV

June 4–7, 2017, [Boston Convention and Exhibition Center](#), Boston, MA

See NFPA's complete online calendar.



Do you have a story to tell or information to share?

Our readers are people with disabilities, and their relatives, caregivers, and friends.

Our goals are to:

- Provide specialized information about fire and life safety for people with disabilities directly to those with disabilities and to those who help them in order to reduce or eliminate death and injury from fire and other emergencies.
- Provide a forum for the collection and dissemination of information for people with disabilities in support of DARAC's mission.
- Provide personal stories about events, ideas, or solutions from our readers that can guide others in similar circumstances.

Content for future editions will include:

- NFPA-related news
 - DARAC news
 - NFPA codes- and standards-related information
 - Fire safety tips
 - Emergency evacuation information
- Articles relating to the safety of people with disabilities from:
 - NFPA staff
 - DARAC members
 - Other national advocates
 - General news
 - Our readers
- News from other standards-developing organizations' news

- [U.S. Access Board](#)
- [ANSI/ICC A117, Standard for Accessible Buildings and Facilities](#)
- [RESNA](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice](#)
- Other

We'd love to hear your stories and opinions! If you'd like to contribute an article or information consistent with the outline above, please e-mail them to Allan B. Fraser, senior building code specialist and *e-ACCESS* coordinator, at afraser@nfpa.org.

Did You Miss an Issue?



No problem! [You can read the back issues of e-ACCESS by clicking here.](#)