



**#NHCPC24**

**NATIONAL HEALTHCARE COALITION  
PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE**

*Visions of Progress: Sustainable Strategies for  
Emergency Preparedness & Resilience*

Presented By:



**MESH**

# Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Considerations in Emergency Preparedness

Measuring success and demonstrating compliance in preparedness programs.

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# WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO HEAR

- A “Civil Right” to adequate emergency planning process exists
- “Meaningful” Community Involvement is the Key
- Lack of Community Awareness is a Fundamental Gap that must be Addressed
- We need a good way to Measure Success of the Planning Process



# CIVIL RIGHTS & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

[T]he **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people ...

[E]veryone enjoys:

- The **same degree of protection** from ... hazards, and

**Equal access to decision-making in the planning process ...**

A constitutional right enforced by the federal civil rights act and the ADA.

As sovereigns the ADA mostly doesn't apply to tribes. The Indian Civil Rights Act might.

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# MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT

There must be a **meaningful opportunity** to participate in planning decisions.

**BUT IT'S ONLY MEANINGFUL** when community concerns are considered in the process

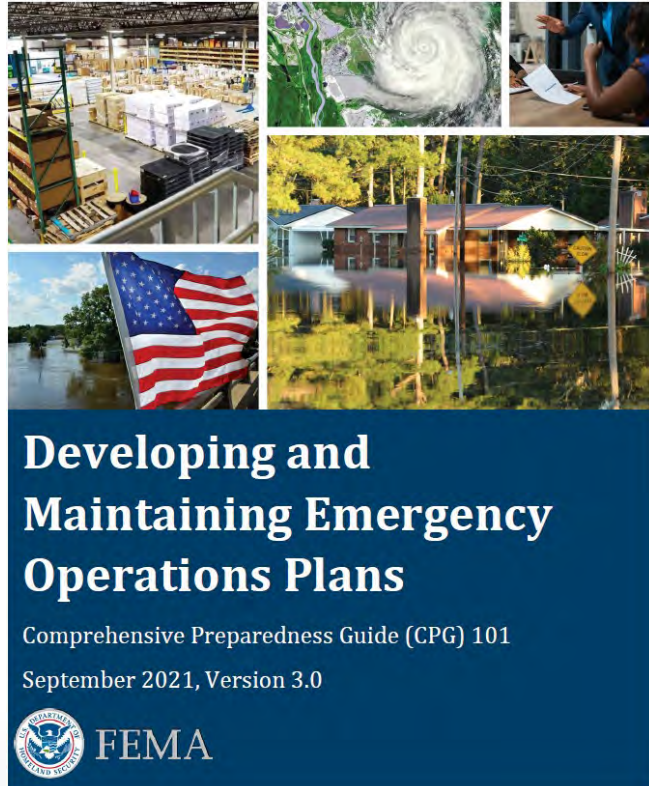
**Decision makers must facilitate participation**

This obligation is the most common failure.



# POTENTIAL FOR LIABILITY IS CLEAR

## CPG 101 Ver. 3.0



<sup>1</sup>Look at *ada.gov* to understand the mandate.

In addition to the ADA, planners must comply with the Civil Rights Act ... and other ... anti-discrimination laws.

“In the nation’s system of emergency management, the local government acts first to address the public’s emergency needs. ...

**At a minimum, these measures include priorities such as warning, emergency public information, evacuation, shelter, security, emergency medical care and tactical communications.”**

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# LOCAL OFFICIALS GUIDE



## Local Elected and Appointed Officials Guide:

Roles and Resources in Emergency Management

September 2022



### Key Message:

Support equitable and comprehensive disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

A “One-Size-Fits-All” approach to emergency management planning, resourcing and information dissemination does not work ....

Establish a core planning team with ... representatives from among people with access and functional needs;

Integrating people with access and functional needs through public outreach in local and regional plans, trainings and exercises;

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# HAZMAT ROUNDTABLE REPORT and RAIL TRANSPORT THOUGHT LEADERS

- 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024 meetings
- Key findings/recommendations:
  - **Local planning to identify, prioritize and fill capability gaps.**
  - Emphasis on community awareness and public involvement.
  - LEPCs and TERCs are a foundational element in promoting community discussion and awareness
  - **Measure success in filling capability gaps.**



# KEY STEPS



**ENGAGE – BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY**



**EDUCATE ABOUT RISKS AND CAPABILITIES**



**EXPLAIN HOW RESPONSE WORKS**



**TELL PEOPLE WHAT YOU CANNOT DO**

**BE HONEST & CREATE EXPECTATIONS**



**IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN GAPS**



**EDUCATE ON THE PUBLIC ROLE**

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# MEASURE SUCCESS

Progress & success are demonstrated by measurable results

Pick projects designed to close gaps

- **Meaningful & relevant.**

Measure, evaluate and repeat

- **Exercises**
- **Include ALL community members**



# QUESTIONS

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