



# ***All Hazards Preparedness and Planning for Individuals with Complex Medical Needs and Disabilities***

**Presented by  
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# Why All-Hazards Preparedness?

- Disability community has increased awareness of need for HURRICANE preparedness post Katrina (Rita, Gustav, Ike, Sandy, Harvey...).
- However people with disabilities and their families are still woefully unprepared even for hurricanes.
- Very little going on in disability community around need for **individualized** preparedness for **all hazards**.



# Barriers to Preparedness

- 65.7 million+ people care for a chronically ill, disabled or aged family member
- They spend an average of 20 hours/week providing care; 39.3 hours if they live with the individual with a disability.
- Caregiving families have median incomes more than 15% lower than non-caregiving families.
- 47% of working caregivers had an increase in caregiving expenses causing them to use ALL or MOST of their savings.

National Alliance for Caregiving in Collaboration with AARP, *Caregiving in the US*, 2009

National Alliance for Caregiving and Evercare, *Evercare Survey of the Economic Downturn and Its Impact on Family Caregiving*, March 2009



# Overcoming Barriers

The background is a collage of three images. On the left, a large, swirling hurricane is shown over a dark sea. In the center, a person in a blue jacket with 'FEMA' written on the back is seen from behind, standing near a damaged building at night. On the right, a medical professional in a green uniform is attending to a patient lying in a hospital bed.

- **More informed population**
- **Greater support for caregivers in planning, training and implementing plans.**
- **Greater resources for families and individuals with disabilities to become prepared.**



# Medicaid or Medicare Recipients with Disabilities





# Plans of Care/Service Plans

- Many services through Medicaid and Medicare include Plans of Care that require emergency plans.
  - Personal Care Services
  - Direct Support Services
  - Home Health
  - In-home skilled nursing
  - Early intervention services

**Disconnect**



# Emergency Planning within Plans of Care

- Create a plan for **each potential risk individualized to the person's needs.**
- Plans should include:
  - Statement of worker's responsibilities for each potential emergency.
  - Describe how the Participant will/may respond during emergencies.
  - Personalized information and include taking favorite items and planning for pets and service animals.
  - **Contact info for case managers and support coordinators, health plans and state agencies. (These contacts should also be in cell phone and in the emergency communication plan).**



# Medicaid or Medicare Case Managers

- Anyone with special needs should be connected with a case manager.
- Case managers are problem solvers!
- Case Management
  - Focused attention and outreach in emergencies and prior to emergencies
  - Assistance finding care in shelter area.
  - Disaster care plans for complex needs
  - Can even help with shelter and food resource info!

# Medicaid or Medicare Case Managers

- Evacuees can call the member services number on the back of the card to get care while evacuated.
- Possible 24-hr nurse help lines with translation services.
- Plans can provide non-participating physicians care/out-of-state care.



# Emergency Planning within Plans of Care

Community disaster planners can help by reaching out to these populations and the agencies that serve them to talk about potential hazards in specific communities.

# Children with Disabilities and Complex Health Care Needs





# Medical Special Needs at School

- Chemical and Nuclear Emergencies
  - May require individuals to “**evacuate in place**” (also called **shelter in place**) at home, work or school.
  - May require student to **evacuate with class** members to location outside area.



What do you mean I can't pick up my child?!!

# Medical Special Needs at School

- **Individualized Education Plan** and/or **Individualized Health Plan** for children and youth with disabilities during school day.
- Within that planning context, families and schools should be discussing things like
  - What the school/district's emergency evacuation plan is?
  - Is the school an “open air” design? (I.e., does the school nurse have access to the students even if the school is on lock down?)



# Medical Special Needs at School

- **Within that planning context, families and schools should be discussing things like**
  - **Where are medications stored that are administered at school? Can they be accessed if the school is sheltering in place?**
  - **What personnel will be trained in emergency measures specific to the child and who will act as backup?**
  - **If evacuating, who is responsible to stay with student to address medical needs?**
  - **Address needs for students with Autism, sensory issues, severe anxiety issues as well.**

# Chemical & Nuclear Emergencies

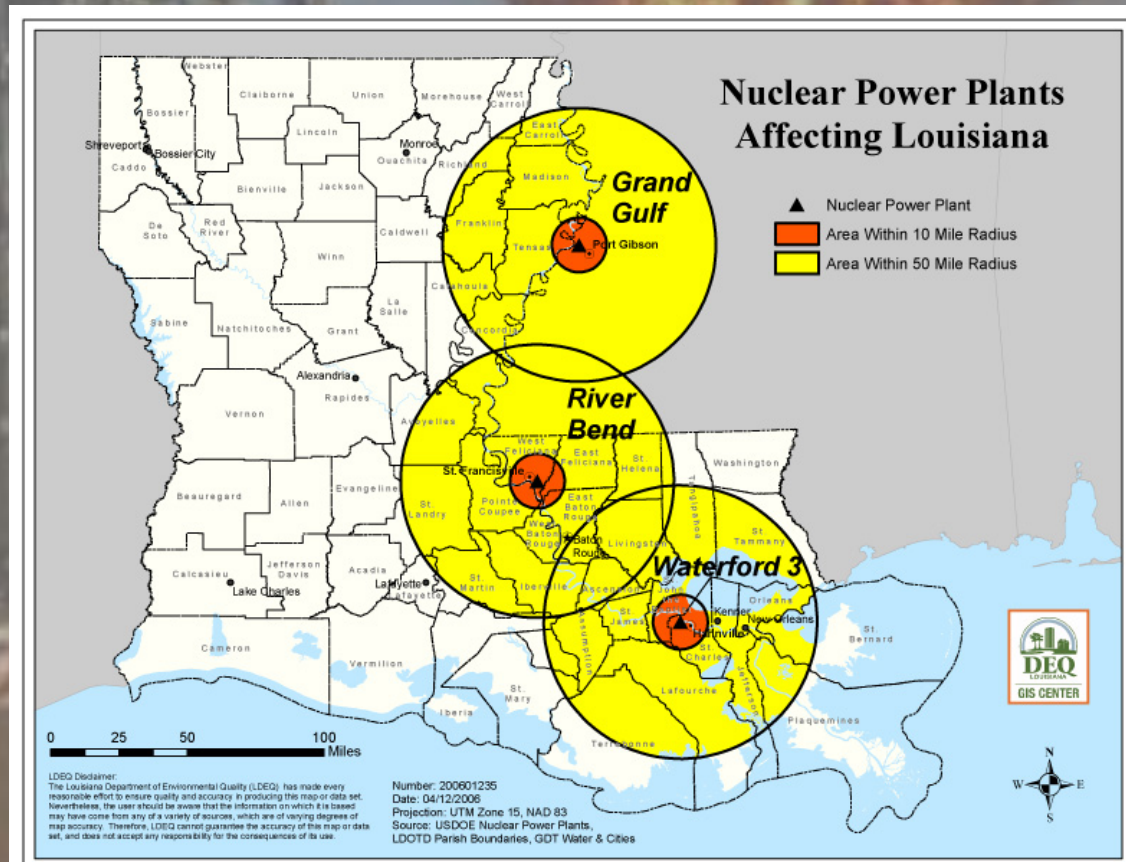
A large, intense fire or explosion is the central focus, with bright orange and yellow flames rising into a grey, smoke-filled sky. In the background, a city skyline with several tall buildings is visible under a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a street scene with some people and structures, though they are somewhat obscured by the fire and smoke. The overall scene suggests a major industrial or urban emergency.

- **Am I in an area where nuclear power could be a danger?**
- **Are there major rail lines near my home?**
- **Are there switching stations for train cars near me?**
- **Are there industrial plants in the area?**
- **Are there major highways nearby where chemicals are transported?**

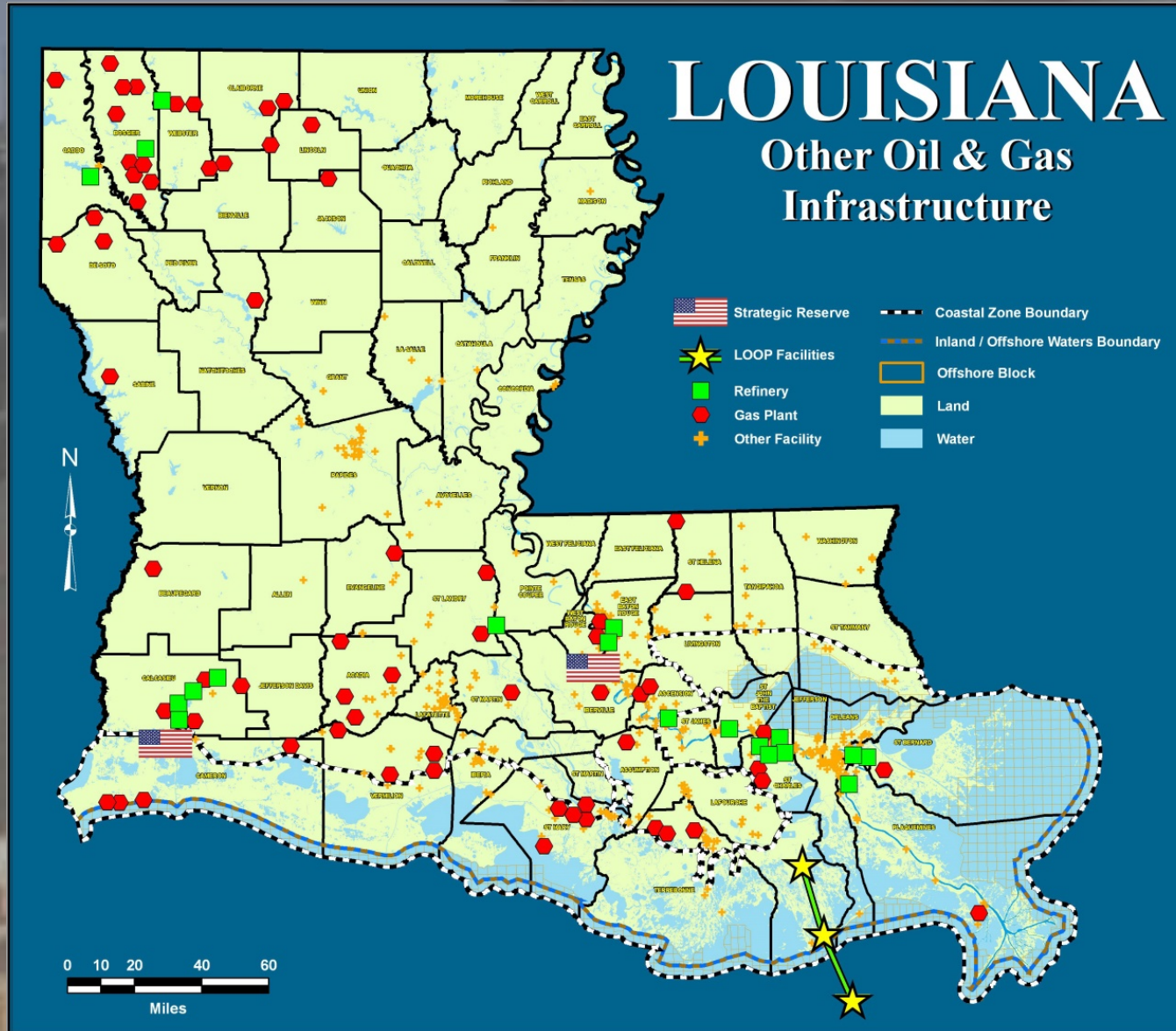


# Chemical & Nuclear Emergencies

- Killona, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana
- River Bend, St. Francisville, Louisiana
- Grand Gulf, Port Gibson Mississippi



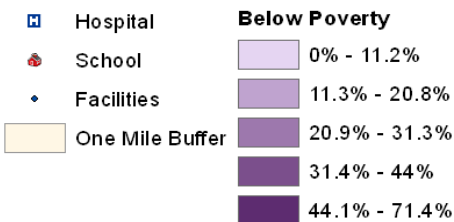
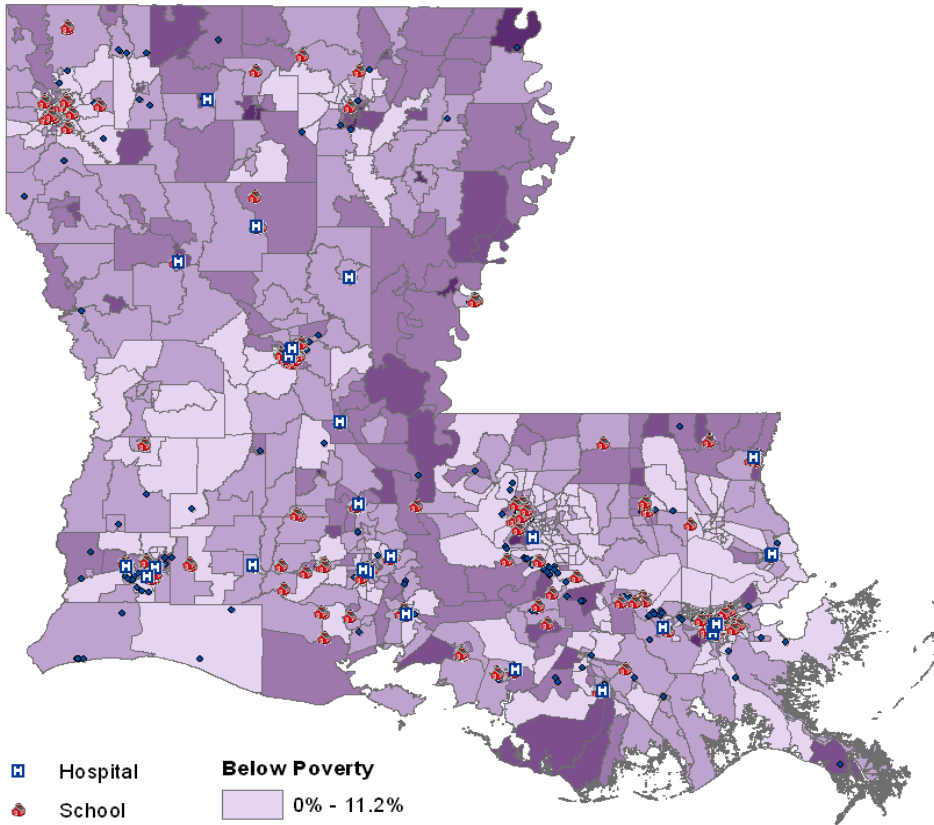
# Chemical & Nuclear Emergencies





# Chemical & Nuclear Emergencies

Louisiana: There are 27 Hospitals and 238 Schools  
Within One Mile of a High-Risk Chemical Facility  
Potentially Putting 112,202 Students in Danger



- Fertilizer Plants
- Grain Elevators
- Paint Processing Plants
- Train lines
- Trucking routes
- Interstate Highways

# EVACUATING and SHELTERS





# Sheltering Will Vary Depending on Disaster

- Shelter in place – brief, up to 1 day.
- Shelter in place – several days.
- **General Population Shelter – Short term**
- **General Population Shelter – Long-term**
  - **Katrina, Rita, 2016 Louisiana Flooding**
- **“Special Needs” Shelter --**
- **Shelter with family/hotel**
- **Without a plan, you may not be able to choose.**

# Sheltering Will Vary

- Shelter in place during flooding for people with mobility issues is **NOT** an option.



## CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE

National Weather Service Houston/Galveston

000  
WOU544 KHGX 271110  
CEMHGX  
TXC039-167-201-271715-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED  
CIVIL EMERGENCY MESSAGE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN CITY OF HOUSTON... GALVESTON COUNTY...  
AND BRAZORIA COUNTY  
RELAYED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HOUSTON/GALVESTON TX  
610 AM CDT SUN AUG 27 2017

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON... GALVESTON  
COUNTY... AND BRAZORIA COUNTY.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REQUESTED THAT PEOPLE ESCAPING  
FLOOD WATERS AS A LAST RESORT DO NOT STAY IN THE ATTIC. IF HIGHEST  
FLOOR OF YOUR HOME BECOMES DANGEROUS...GET ON THE ROOF. CALL 911  
FOR HELP AND STAY ON THE LINE UNTIL ANSWERED.

\$\$



@NWSHouston  
weather.gov/houston



# Weather Related Emergencies



# Weather-Related Emergencies

Noah Stewart survived a 2011 tornado that leveled his family's Alabama home, thanks to a helmet, according to experts and news reports. (Joe Songer/AL.COM, via Landov)



**Oklahoma Tornado Football Team Survivors Wore Helmets. So Should You.**

by [Caitlin Dickson](#) May 22, 2013 4:45 AM EDT

Head injuries are responsible for the majority of tornado deaths. So why don't more people have helmets handy? Caitlin Dickson reports on the campaign to make them a key component of every storm-readiness kit.

The Daily Beast



# Weather-Related Emergencies



**Families of people with disabilities  
live on Facebook!!**

**Alert App acts like  
a weather radio on  
your phone**

**TV Station Weather Apps  
Live Facebook feeds**

# Fire Emergencies



# Fire

A photograph of a house on fire, with thick smoke and flames rising from the roof. In the foreground, several firefighters in full gear, including helmets and jackets, are visible, some holding hoses. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the fire itself.

- **Clear exit pathways, especially for wheelchair users**
- **Extra pair of shoes under the bed**
- **Use talking smoke alarms deep sleepers or those with intellectual disabilities**
- **Use alarms that shake the bed or those with flashing strobe light along with sound for individuals with hearing impairments**
- **Alarm in each bedroom and outside each bedroom**
- **Practice drills more often for people with intellectual disabilities**
- **Practice “low and go” and checking doors for heat**



# Fire



National Autism Society  
[Nationalautism.org](http://Nationalautism.org)

[IfINeedHelp.org](http://IfINeedHelp.org)  
QR Codes and safety products

# Disability Specific Emergencies





# Wandering

*Be Autism Aware*

92% of children with  
autism wander.

The #1 cause of death  
among children with  
autism is drowning.

*Please Share to Help Spread Awareness*

*Always Unique Totally Intelligent Sometimes Mysterious*





# Wandering

**IF I NEED HELP** Call Us: 661.524.6732  
FOUND SOMEONE? Enter Code Here [Facebook] [Twitter] [YouTube] [Instagram]

HOME SHOP IF I NEED HELP BLOG ABOUT CONTACT FREE SIGNUP LOGIN

**IF I NEED HELP**  
HELP FOR OUR LOVED ONES WHO MAY WANDER

"IF I NEED HELP" IS A 501 (C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION EIN #46-5166303 **DONATE**

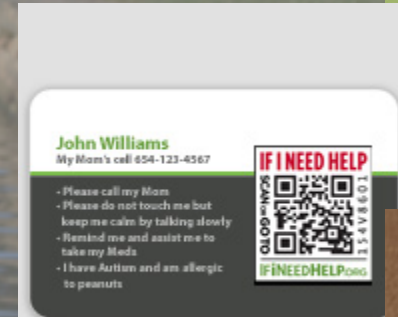
**Found Someone?**  
If you have found someone and are unable to scan the QR code please follow the link and enter the code.  
[Enter Code Here](#)

**Peace Of Mind**  
Find the right ID for your unique situation from our variety of products!  
[Success Stories](#)

**DONATE WITH PAYPAL**  
Now accepting donations conveniently via Paypal. Your Tax deductible contributions go to helping get safety products to people with special needs and keeping our website up and our prices down :) We really appreciate your support!  
[Donate](#)

**PATCHES, SHOE TAGS, ID CARDS, WINDOW CLINGS, BUMPER STICKERS, DOG TAGS, PINS, CLIPS & MORE!!**  
Put patches, pins, clips onto your clothes, backpack, or device! Sew yourself or take to the cleaners or Grandma's and have it done for you. Put your new Shoe tag on your favorite shoe with tieless laces. Wear y

<https://ifineedhelp.org/>



# Individuals Dependent on Technology

## Entergy Louisiana Statement:

“We advise all customers that use medical equipment in their homes to have an emergency plan in case of an electric power outage. Entergy cannot guarantee uninterrupted power for any customer nor can we guarantee any priority in restoration of power for any customer. Our goal is to restore service to all customers as quickly and as safely as possible.”

[http://www.entergy-louisiana.com/your\\_home/help.aspx](http://www.entergy-louisiana.com/your_home/help.aspx)



# Individuals Dependent on Technology

- **May need generators until power is restored.**
- **Need to train on generator safety.**
- **Ventilator users should keep resuscitation bag nearby.**
- **On oxygen? Be aware of oxygen safety practices, avoiding gas leaks or open flames.**
- **Post "Oxygen in Use" signs.**
- **When using oxygen, always use battery powered flashlights NOT gas lights or candles (to reduce fire risk).**
- **Keep shut-off switch for oxygen equipment near you so you can get to it quickly in case of emergency.**



# Individuals Dependent on Technology

- **Leaving? Technology dependent? Bring extra surge protectors, chargers and back up chargers and a 3-prong adaptor for your car.**
- **Durable Medical Equipment (DME)? Post “How To Operate” instructions on large or complex DME for first responders that may need the info.**
- **Keep DME with batteries and phones charged during bad weather events.**
- **BE sure to touch base with local EOC and evacuation personnel each hurricane season regarding your DME needs.**

**Credit Trach Mommas of Louisiana and  
Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN)**

# Active Shooter Emergencies



# Active Shooter Preparedness

“Why even prepare him for this? There is no way I will get him to understand what we are trying to teach him, much less what to do.”

*Mom of young man with intellectual and mobility disabilities, 2015*

***TRAIN HIS CARETAKERS!!!***



HOSPITAL SHOOTING

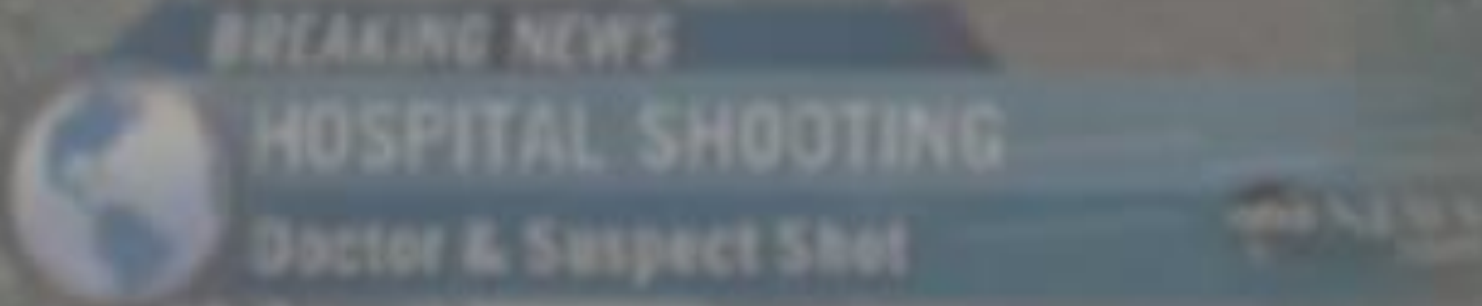
Doctor & Suspect Shot



# Active Shooter Preparedness

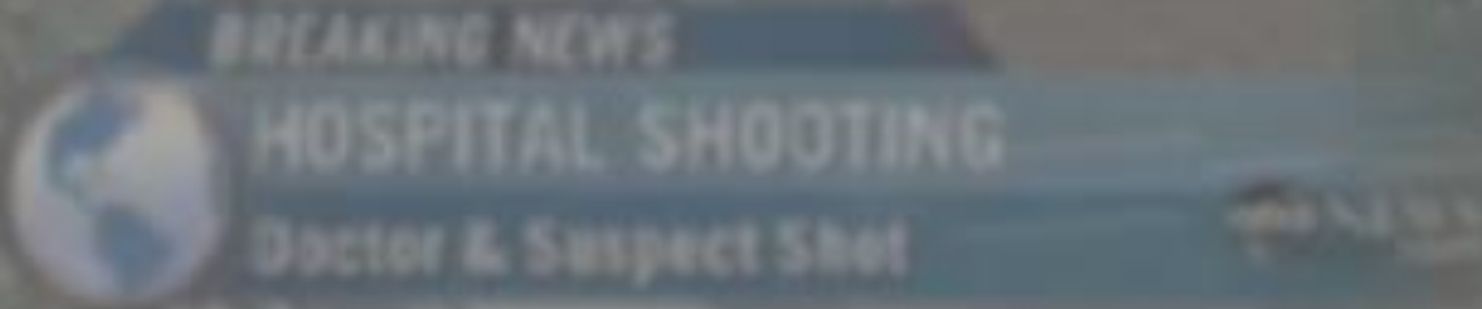
- **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

*City of Houston, 2012*



# Active Shooter Preparedness

- **Remain calm and follow all instructions.**
- **Put down items in your hands.**
- **RAISE YOUR HANDS WITH FINGERS SPREAD.**



# **Active Shooter: When Law Enforcement Arrives**

**Information to provide to law enforcement or**

**911 operator:**

- **Location of the active shooter**
- **Number of shooters, if more than one**
- **Physical description of shooter/s**
- **Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s**
- **Number of potential victims at the location**



# Communication Plans



# Emergency Communications

- **Use old Cell Phones to dial 911**
- **Download applications that can be used for calling.**
- **Read reviews before downloading.**
- **Check for hidden charges.**
- **Be sure you get one that does not rely on the other party to have the same app on their phone.**

# Free Communication Apps

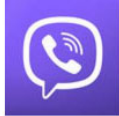


## Skype for iPhone

Social Networking

"Skype stayed true to form and wifi calls work great"

Free 363K ratings



## Viber

Social Networking

"Wifi calling to your friends overseas or while traveling"

Free 158K ratings



## Talkatone - Free SMS...

Social Networking

"Works well with just wifi call and texting are excellent quality"

Free 19K ratings



## Dingtone: Free Phone...

Social Networking

"This is the absolute best wifi call app I've ever used"

Free 4K ratings



## Phone for Google Voic...

Social Networking

"Wifi calls go through loud and clear"

Free 14K ratings



## BBM

Social Networking

"I use it often and the wifi calling is a bonus"

Free 26K ratings

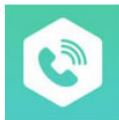


## WhosHere

Social Networking

"Wifi calling does work and is rather fun"

Free 98K ratings



## FreeTone - Free Calls a...

Social Networking

"Trust me love it and the best wifi calling app ever"

Free 38K ratings



## Vonage Mobile - Voic...

Social Networking

"so this app is excellent for placing free domestic wifi calls"

Free 9K ratings



## WePhone - free phone...

Social Networking

"Great wifi calling app that works links charm"

Free 14K ratings



## Rebtel - Cheap...

Social Networking

"This app had been my lifeline due to their wifi calling"

Free 8K ratings



## TextNow + Voice - Fre...

Social Networking

TextNow + Voice - Free Text & Calls : Free  
"Great way to warn credit to make wifi calls"

Free 8K ratings



# Free Communication Apps



**WhatsApp Messenger** Top Developer

WhatsApp Inc. Communication ★★★★★ 1 44,440,691

Everyone

This app is compatible with all of your devices.

Add to Wishlist **Install**

Simple. Personal. Real time messaging.


Send photos and videos instantly

Call your friends and family for free



WhatsApp Messenger is a FREE messaging app available for Android and other smartphones. WhatsApp uses your phone's Internet connection (4G/3G/2G/EDGE or Wi-Fi, as available) to let you message and call friends and family. Switch from SMS to WhatsApp to send and receive messages, calls, photos, videos, documents, and Voice Messages.

WHY USE WHATSAPP:



**Talkatone: FREE Texts & Calls**

Talkatone, Llc Communication ★★★★★ 104,576

Everyone

Offers in-app purchases

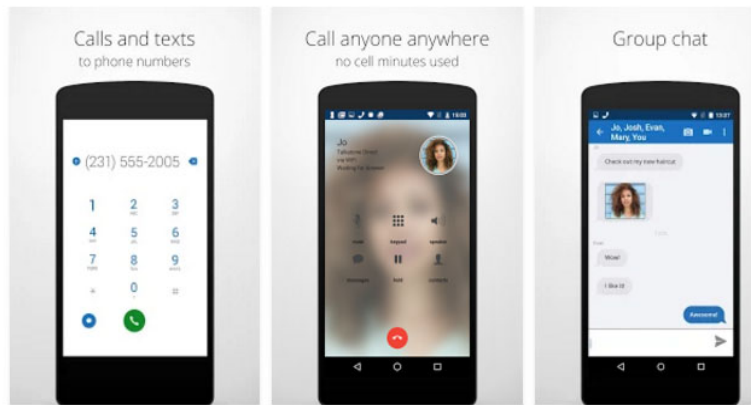
This app is compatible with some of your devices.

Add to Wishlist **Install**

Calls and texts to phone numbers

Call anyone anywhere no cell minutes used

Group chat



Free calls & texts via WiFi or cellular data, no cell minutes used

Free inbound calls, free SMS texting, free recurring monthly outbound minutes

Free picture texting

Unlimited free in-app calls & texts with pictures

FREE LOCAL U.S. PHONE NUMBER

Get a free U.S. phone number of your choice. Make and receive free texts and calls to U.S. phone



# **EVERYONE NEEDS A DISASTER COMMUNICATION PLAN**

**Short Video – Everyone needs a Disaster  
Communication Plan**

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/83336>

**Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan**

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/  
1440449346150-1ff18127345615d8b7e1effb4752b668/  
Family\\_Comm\\_Plan\\_508\\_20150820.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440449346150-1ff18127345615d8b7e1effb4752b668/Family_Comm_Plan_508_20150820.pdf)

# Be Prepared





# Safety Videos for Families of Children with Special Needs

**SAFE**  
**K:DS**  
WORLDWIDE™

<http://www.safekids.org/>

Water Safety

Poison Prevention

Choking Prevention

Fall Prevention

Burn Prevention

Fire Prevention

Special Needs Series:

Mobility Issues

Visual or Hearing

Impairment

Cognitive Impairment

# Safety in the Car

- Evacuating with Individuals with Severe Mental Health Issues
  - Discuss evacuations with your psychiatrist.
  - Never try to drive with them alone if they are in crisis or could go into mental health crisis while evacuating.



The Seat Belt Buckle Guard is a seat belt lock designed to prevent children with emotional and cognitive disabilities from releasing the seat belt while the car is in motion.

## Final Note

***When you're  
done, you've  
just begun!***



**THANK YOU!**

TORNADO • FLA...

Em...

QUAKE • WINTER

Emergency Preparedness Checklist

he next time  
strikes