

Highlights of The Pass It On Center

Region IV Summit on Emergency Management and AT Reuse: A Huge Success!

The Pass It On Center's first regional summit on AT Reuse and Emergency Management, held for FEMA Region IV in Atlanta on April 27 and 28, was a huge success. The directors of the Assistive Technology Act Programs Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee were invited to nominate delegates involved in AT reuse and/or emergency response. Although response to weather-related disasters prevented the attendance of some delegates, each state was represented among the 60 participants (including the AT Act Program directors from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina).

Marcie Roth, Director of the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, FEMA, spoke on *Planning for the Whole Community: Integrating and Coordinating the Access and Functional Needs of Children and Adults with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery; Before, During and After a Disaster*. Marilyn Self, Manager, Disaster Readiness for the Atlanta Region of the American Red Cross, presented on *Breaking the Access Barrier to Assist Disaster-Affected Clients*. Jamie Karam and Julie Nesbit from the Louisiana Technology Access Network spoke on *Preparing for AT Needs in Advance of a Disaster*.

Three panels of delegates told compelling stories of personal experiences in responding to hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and ice storms.

The entire conference examined an outline for developing a state plan for addressing the needs of AT users and other people with functional needs in a disaster. Delegates shared many good ideas and made useful contacts. Each state will expand their workgroup to develop a plan.



Trish Redmon and Liz Persaud discussing Mitigation



The Great Shake Down Earthquake Drill 2011

Emergency Management and AT Reuse: What's Next?

Developing a State Plan: Georgia Kicks Off the Process

Delegates who attended the Region IV Summit in April and additional representatives from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Department of Community Health gathered on June 14 to begin development of a state plan. Led by Georgia's AT Act Program, Tools for Life, this team will share its experiences with the other states in the region. During the initial meeting, priorities were identified and six small workgroups constituted. Team members also identified additional people to join the initiative. The objective of the group is to develop a plan that can be adopted as part of Georgia's Emergency Management Plan under Emergency Support Function 6 which covers mass care, emergency assistance, human services and housing.

Next Summit on AT Reuse and Emergency Management: FEMA Region III

In late September, the states in FEMA Region III, the Mid-Atlantic states, will hold a Summit on Emergency Management and AT Reuse. Final dates and location have not been announced, but the Summit will use the experience of the Region IV as a guide.

EM Summit Sparks More Florida Interest in Reuse

Jesus Garcia, President, and Molly Gosline, Executive Director, of the Florida Independent Living Council attended the Region IV Summit on Emergency Management. They went away interested in participating in the initiative for AT reuse in Emergency Management. Carolyn Phillips, Pass It On Center Director, was invited to speak to the state board meeting in Daytona Beach on June 23.



Florida Independent Living Council discussing AT Reuse and EM

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Come Blog with Us!

The Pass It On Center Blog is a platform for anyone interested in AT and DME Reuse to discuss, share, explore, and provide resources in a constructive way. It is our hope that you will share your helpful thoughts, ideas and feedback on what and how things should be changed to benefit our community. So come on in and join the discussion, post a question or comment or just hang out and learn a few things. We look forward to hearing from you!

[PIOC AT Reuse Blog](#)

[PIOC EM Blog](#)

Emergency Management

Emergency Management and AT Reuse Webinar Series

You probably have noticed the trend in the past few Pass It On Center webinars - Emergency Management and AT Reuse. We wanted to shed some light when there have been so many devastating storms and disasters that have recently affected our country. The Pass It On Center webinar platform provides a gathering place for the AT, AT Reuse and disability community to share important resources and lessons learned. We have heard many times that AT Reuse programs attribute their success and effective customer service to learning from what their peers are doing across the country.

We hope this important series of webinars has provided the necessary tools needed for efficiency and safety in times of emergencies. If you missed any of these webinars or would like to hear them again for reference, visit the [PIOC webinar page](#) for archives.

Emergency Management and AT Reuse Series Topics:

January 18th - How to Develop a Continuity of Operations Plan

May 31st - Emergency Preparedness: Strategies and Resources

June 28th - Understanding and Navigating the Disaster Recovery Process

Webinars

Using Apps in Times of Emergencies

In case you missed it, below is the Pass It On Center article that was featured in the March 2011 Friends of ATIA Newsletter.

A priority of the Pass It On Center (PIOC) is making sure that in an emergency, proper communication is facilitated and that no one is separated from their assistive technology, caregivers and family members. One way that individuals with disabilities can be independent during emergencies is through the use of apps. Whether on an iPad®, iPod®, Android™ (or other device), apps provide an easier route for daily tasks and communication.

The word "apps" has become part of everyday language and routine. In fact, while most people use some sort of app to accomplish their personal and professional activities, keeping up with the development of new apps can be overwhelming. At least 200 new apps are released every day with a percentage created specifically for people with disabilities.

The following are three apps that can be beneficial in times of emergencies, especially for people with disabilities:



The **ICE (In Case of Emergency)** app provides one central location to communicate personal medical information to first responders during an emergency. This life-saving app stores information about medical conditions, allergies, emergency contacts, insurance information and contact details for doctors. The ICE app provides first responders with one-touch access to identity and key medical information to allow for proper, informed care during an emergency. Individual emergency information is summarized on one screen, including name, photo, medical conditions and emergency contact information. The app is free. Learn more at the [ICE app Web site](#).



Sign 4 Me is an app that provides sign language in 3D. Once the desired sentences, phrases, words and letters are typed in, a 3D avatar signs for the user. Everything the user types is saved in history and used as shortcuts. The 3D avatar can be adjusted for speed, zoomed in or out and rotated to provide the best vantage point for every sign. The Sign 4 Me library includes more than 11,500 words and is growing. This app is an easy way to ensure efficient communication between the hearing and the individuals who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing. Learn more at the [Sign 4 Me app Web site](#).



Emergency Aid is another app that can be a life-saving tool for someone involved in an emergency. This app provides how-to instructions, full color pictures, and even warnings and lists of what not to do in emergency situations. It can be useful for those first to arrive at the scene of an emergency and who need to help others or for individuals faced with a personal threat. The Emergency Aid app houses active links so appropriate emergency aid services or web sites can be accessed with one tap. More information can be found at this [Emergency Aid iTunes Web page](#).

The Pass It On Center encourages everyone to be prepared when disaster strikes. The PIOC works to assist individuals with disabilities in emergency situations by defining a role for the reuse of assistive technology (AT) as a temporary solution for those who lose AT in an emergency or have a new need for AT. For more information on what the Pass It On Center is doing to promote AT Reuse in emergencies, visit the [Pass It On Center Web site](#).



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Pass It On Center
1700 Century Circle
Suite 300
Atlanta, GA 30345

1-800-497-8665
Info@passitoncenter.org
www.passitoncenter.org

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