

September 19, 2019
7:00 PM Eastern

AAC and Disaster: Are You Ready?

Presenters:

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Facilitator: Liz Begley, M.A., CCC – Speech Pathology Services, USSAAC DRC



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Webinar Logistics



Enter questions in the question box for Q&A.

- We will answer as many questions as time permits.

Archived webcasts and upcoming webinars:

<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/webinars/>

Next webinars:

Apoyo al lenguaje narrativo para usuarios de sistemas aumentativos y alternativos de comunicación

Septiembre 24, 2019 @

California, 10:00; México, 12 noon; Toronto, 13:00; Madrid, 19:00

My Story of How Getting a Speech Device Changed My Life

- October 16, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. ET
- **By Todd Hutchinson**

ASHA CEUs – live webcast only

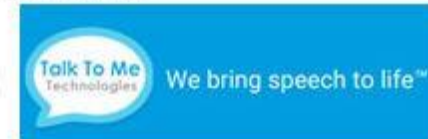
- \$0 for USSAAC members
- \$25 – non-USSAAC members
- CEU Participant forms/ instructions/Certificates are on USSAAC website <https://ussaac.org/news-events/webinars/>
- **Scan and send your participant form to smeehan8@ku.edu by October 3, 2019 by 5:00 PM**

Learner Objectives

- Describe relevant actions for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users across the disaster cycle
- Determine appropriate strategies for long-term recovery
- Apply disaster knowledge and skill to individual AAC users, families, and clinicians

Supporters

USSAAC would like to recognize and thank our Institutional and Corporate Members for their support



Sarah Blackstone



Tina Caswell



Sobha George

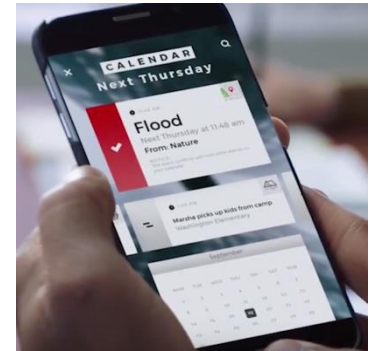


Disclosure: our speakers have no financial or non-financial relationships to disclose relevant to the content of this webinar.

Are You Ready?

"If you are waiting for a situation to develop, you are going to lose your ability to change the outcome."

Craig Fugate, former FEMA Administrator



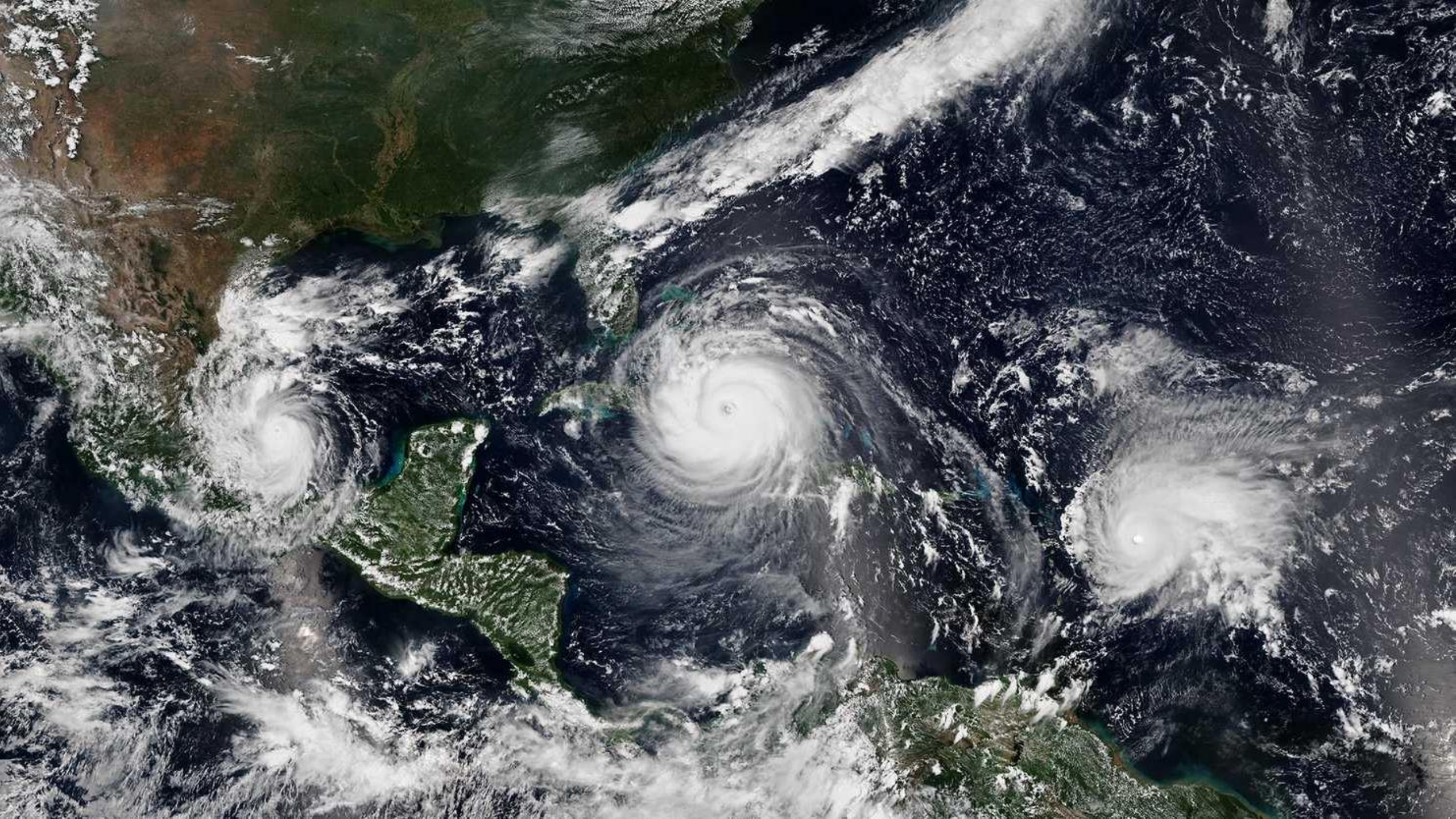
Devastating "natural" and man-made disasters are unpredictable.



MARIN
COUNTY
FIRE

EAST SONOMA
PRE-ATTACK PLAN

FIRE









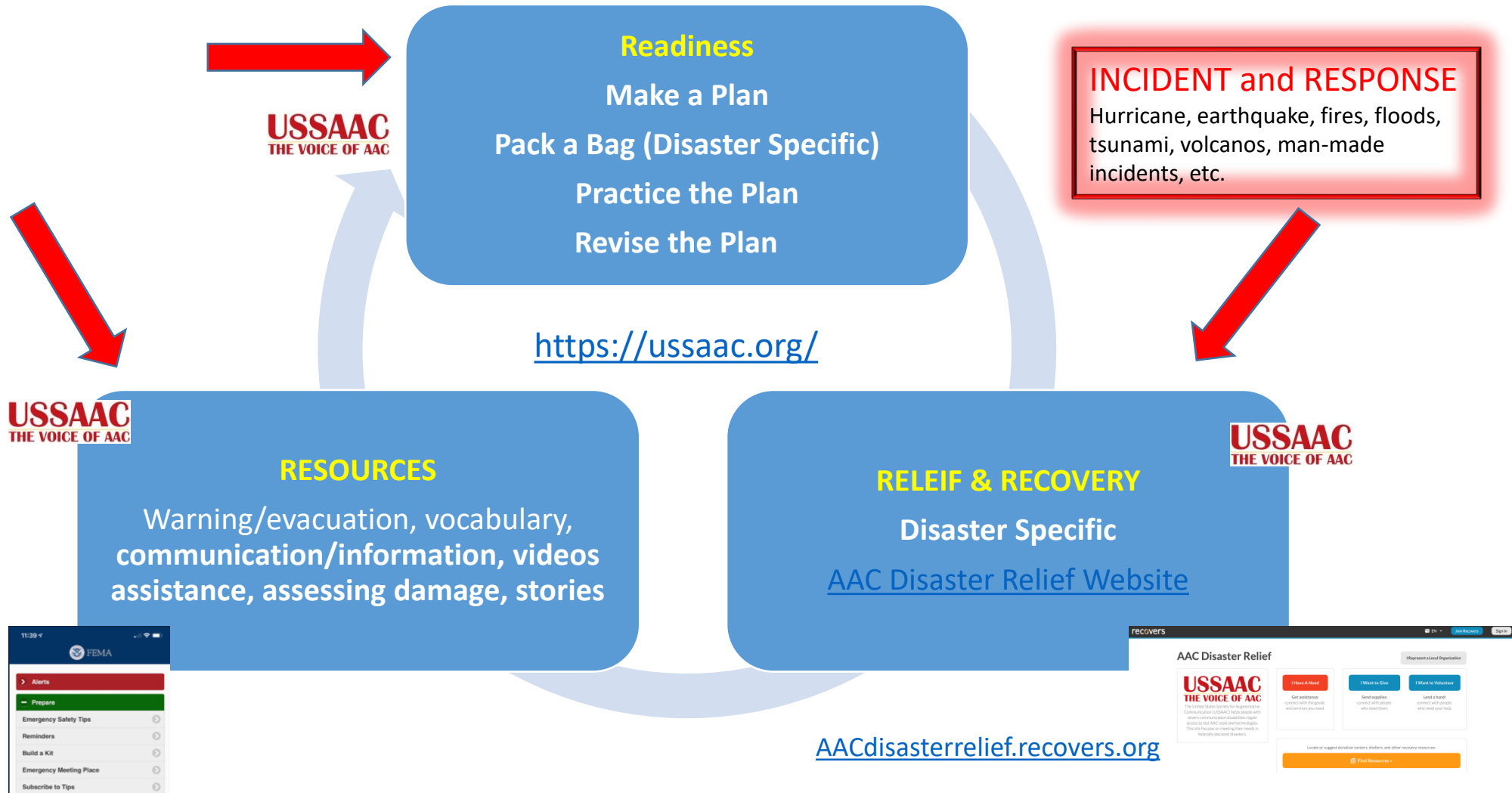
Emergencies happen every day.





USSAAC - Four Rs in the Disaster Cycle

Readiness, Relief and Recovery and Resources



Lack of preparedness IS a disaster!

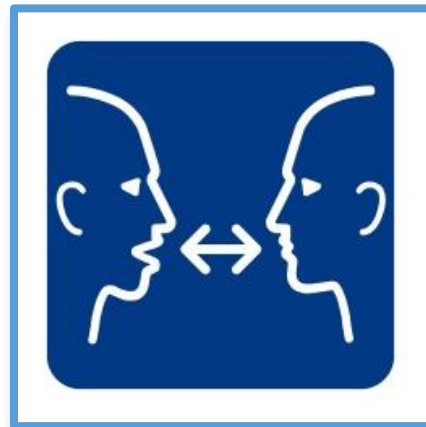
"If you are waiting for a situation to develop, you are going to lose your ability to change the outcome."

Craig Fugate, former FEMA Administrator

WHO IS AT MOST RISK?

People with disabilities and access and functional needs (AFN)

People with speech and language disabilities, especially those who rely on AAC.



READINESS

Readiness

Make a Plan

Pack a Bag (Disaster Specific)

Practice the Plan

Revise the Plan

- Get Informed. Stay Informed
 - What disasters are most likely to occur in your area?
 - Download apps to both learn about and receive weather updates
- Make a Plan
- Pack a Go Bag (AAC specific focus)
- Practice PLAN, REVISE & UPDATE Go Bag

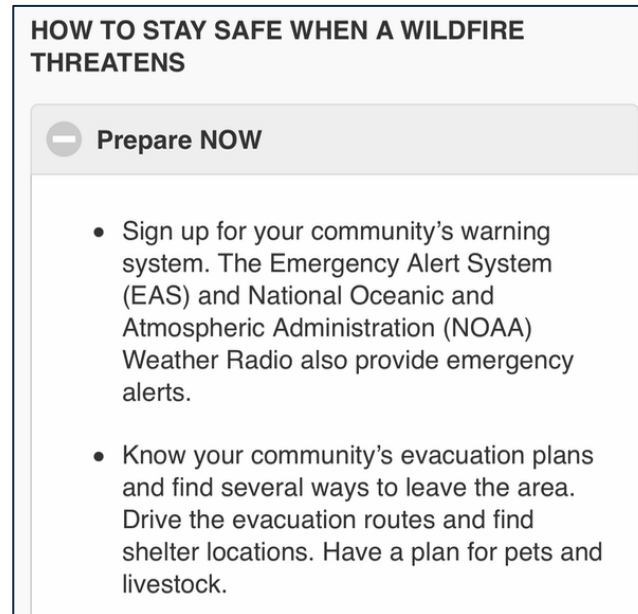
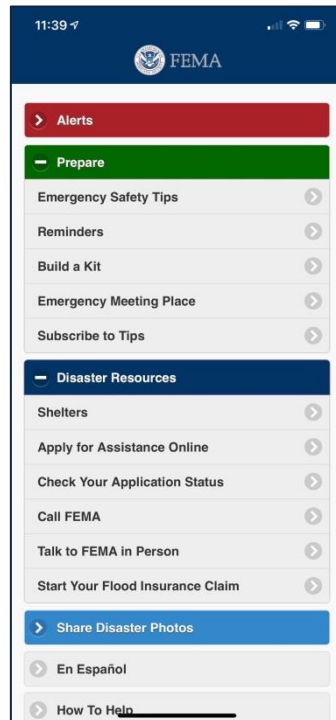
ROLE OF SERVICE PROVIDERS?

1. Have a personal preparedness plan. You can't help others if you are not prepared.
2. Be familiar with your employer's plans (evacuating or sheltering in place)
What if the event occurs suddenly, when clients are on premises.
3. How will you communicate with your colleagues and clients?
4. Are records safe? How can you access them if you can't get into your office?
5. Do you have a plan to assure continuity of operations (COOP)?
6. What are your payer-mandated requirements (e.g. CMS requirements for home health, hospitals, LTC)

<https://mms.mckesson.com/content/business-resources/workplace-safety/disaster-preparedness-planning/>

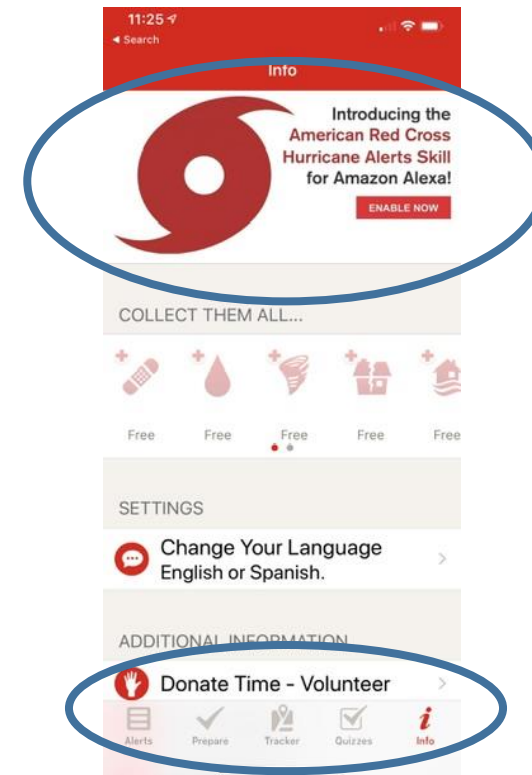
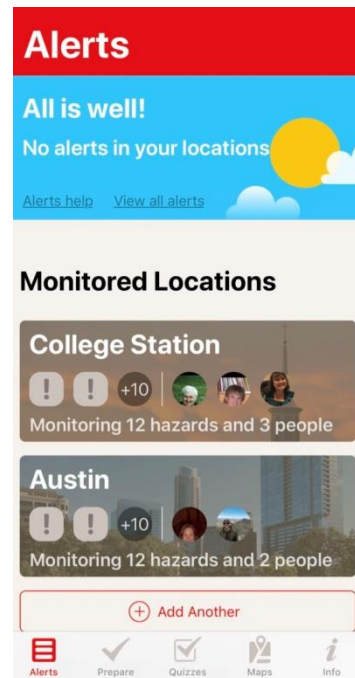
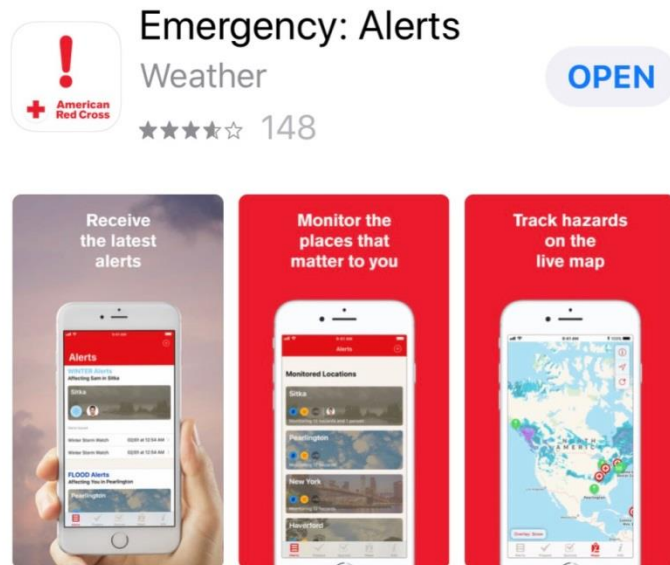
GET INFORMED

Here two apps, available for iOS and Android that will help you get started: FEMA (<https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>)



Personal Preparedness

Red Cross: Emergency Alert (<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps.html>)



ICE (In Case of Emergency) options


- ✓ ICE apps and templates available. Find the one that best suits your situation.
- ✓ Keep a cell phone/tablet ICE app as well as a paper copy of ICE in a backpack or wallet.
- ✓ Practice using the ICE information with individuals who use AAC. Help them be part of the solution!

ICE options (iOS app)




<https://www.ice4autism.com/>

\$1.99 on April 10, 2019


 **Alert My Emergency Contacts**

ICE4Autism can send an **emergency alert text message** -- including your GPS location and a link to your location pinned on Google Maps -- to your designated emergency contacts. Parents, spouses, caregivers and service providers can come to your side, advocate for you and help you through the ordeal.

 **Special Instructions**

The Special Instructions widget is the place for you to tell first responders whatever YOU decide is most important!

It may be that you are particularly noise sensitive, have an unusually high pain threshold, or that you are non-verbal and use your iPad to communicate; it may be that just because you nod your head does not necessarily mean you understand or that you are particularly frightened of needles; or it may be a request that they answer your phone if it rings, because it's probably your worried mom, dad, husband or wife wanting to make sure you are OK.

 **ICE Audio - ICE4Autism can speak for you or your loved one**

If you or your loved one is non-verbal or incapacitated due to injury, the simple press of a button plays YOUR pre-recorded message including the most important information about YOU, your sensitivities, unique behaviors and anything else YOU decide is vital to your care.

Save time by telling first responders and others how to use the app effectively and where to find the most important information about YOU and your needs.

Personal-Emergency-Profile Single Page

<https://nationalautismassociation.org/personal-emergency-profile-sheet/>

Annually (or more frequently) complete and share with school staff, family, friends, neighbors, caregivers, police, fire, and rescue professionals.


PERSONAL EMERGENCY PROFILE

DATE: April 10, 2019

NAME: Tommy Brighthouse AGE: 9

ADDRESS: 123 Main Street, Houston, Texas, 11123

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: brown hair, blue eyes, friendly, likes to smile.



TRACKING FREQUENCY # (if applicable)

EMERGENCY CONTACT(S) IF LOST, MAY BE FOUND AT: Park at Raintree Circle
(Likely places to go)

NAME: Martha Brighthouse PHONE NUMBER: 555-123-1234

NAME: Peter Brighthouse PHONE NUMBER: 555-321-5432

RESTRICTIONS (Allergies and diet)
Peanuts and Gluten

MEDICAL NEEDS (Diagnosis, health concerns)

SIGNS OF ESCALATION (Changes in behavior that show increased or decreased anxiety, anger, etc. Recommendations for do's and don'ts.)
Rocking back and forth and covering my ears

LIKES (Attractions, favorite things, hobbies, interests, foods, drinks, verbal exchanges, etc.)
marshmallows, baseball, toy cars

DISLIKES (Triggers, sensitivities, fears, things to avoid, foods, drinks, verbal exchanges, etc.)
loud noises, mean people, thunder

Symbols aid understanding and communication for everyone. Show and point to symbols when talking with a rescued person.

eat	drink	cold	Mom	Dad	call home	go home	deep breath
Yes	pain	safe	lost	Add personal message here	Add personal message here	Add personal message here	No

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The George Family



Our Story

Background

- Christopher George 23 years
- Chandler George 21 years
- Resides in Houston, Texas USA
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device users for over 20 years.
- lived in different states in US and for the last 20 years have settled here in Houston



Education Background



- Our relationship with Special Education of Alief school district
- both attended full time Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program for few years
- Rest of the education is in Alief School district special education program.

History of AAC services and devices

- Started with low-tech services 20 years ago
- Picture exchange cards (PEC) system, Basic communication flip boards, AAC boards, Big Mack, Go talk to DYNAVOX /Speech Generating Device (SGD) or Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCA), iPad, iPad mini
- At least for the over 15 years, using high tech devices. The first device through Specialized Telecommunications Assistance Program (STAP) voucher program. <https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/forms/3000-3999/form-3906-application-specialized-telecommunications-assistance-program-stap>.



Harvey Hits Houston

- Harvey, tropical depression category 4 hurricane, costliest tropical cyclone on record, from catastrophic rainfall-triggered flooding in the Houston metropolitan area and Southeast Texas made landfall on August 25, 2017. The damage estimated from Harvey was at least \$125 billion



Preparedness

- signed up for community warning systems e-mail and text alerts or Emergency Alert systems information
- stocked food, water, medications, flashlights, candles, batteries, cash, gas cooking cylinder, first aid supplies, filled full tank gas

 **Houston OEM** 
@HoustonOEM Follow

Houston under a Tropical Storm Warning. Harvey expected to bring strong wind, flooding this weekend.
houstonemergency.org/harvey #houwx #txwx



8:24 AM - 24 Aug 2017

Harvey's Impact 2017

Preparedness

- Chandler had working devices during the time of the incident
 - The devices had a limited life span and did not last during the power shortage.
 - Once the power had come back the devices would not properly charge and Chandler was unable to use the devices.
- Christopher 's STAP application was still pending
- There was no further backup plan set in place at the time

Harvey's Impact 2017

Recovery

- Once we were able to get electricity and internet, we had to do our own research about the updates for the resources
- Family to Family Network
 - Email with a link to the USSAAC application
- The SLP[Ms.Elizabeth Begley] had came to our home to help set up and pick the effective devices for our children's needs

AAC Disaster Relief

I Represent a Local Organization

USSAAC
THE VOICE OF AAC

The United States Society for Augmentative Communication (USSAAC) helps people with severe communication disabilities regain access to lost AAC tools and technologies. This site focuses on meeting their needs in federally-declared disasters.

I Have A Need

Get assistance:
connect with the goods
and services you need.

I Want to Give

Send supplies:
connect with people
who need them.

I Want to Volunteer

Lend a hand:
connect with people
who need your help.






Locate or suggest donation centers, shelters, and other recovery resources:


Find Resources +

Harvey Impact 2017

Next Steps

- We have started introducing and preparing our children through information videos.
- Meet the Disaster Dodgers
 - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL720Kw_OojLXAc3P4kZMAb_aQiyYCSXit
- Emergency Preparedness: How to make a Go Bag (Lois Brady)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qlxVYozOrl&list=PLEKlZcsegZRg_Ei2gwr3XpfGyrP2zLpUG&index=7&t=0s

1		Introduction to Emergency Planning FEMA 4:15
2		Family Communications Plan and Emergency Kit FEMA 5:27
3		Fire Emergencies FEMA 3:15
4		Earthquakes FEMA 2:56
5		Severe Weather FEMA 7:23

	Emergency Preparedness -- How to Make a Go Bag iTherapy, LLC 1:07
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To USSAAC:



What we learned from Harvey about People Who Use AAC (PWUAAC)

- AAC user who are **non-readers** need **vocabulary**
- AAC users need to understand disaster **vocabulary**



Vocabulary

CoughDrop Effort

- <https://www.mycoughdrop.com/>
- **Review and add vocabulary?** Think about what are the most likely scenarios in your area?
- **Involve PWUAAC actively in developing specific phrases and/or icons.** Encourage them to ask questions and comment about what may happen to them during a disaster.

fire



flood



tornado



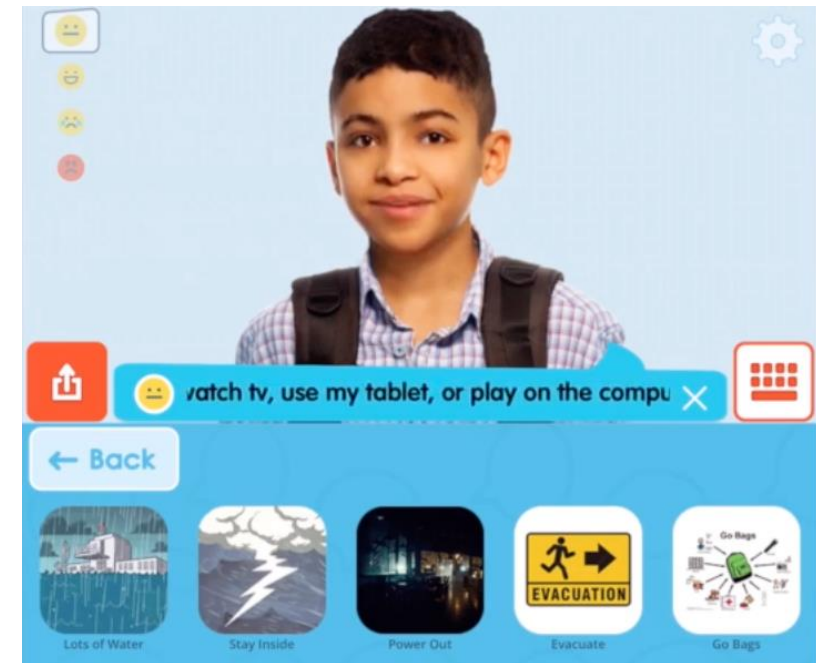
YouTube Videos for Disaster Concepts

How to Make a Go Bag



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9glxVYozOrl&list=PLEKlZcsegZRg_Ei2gwr3XpfGyrP2zLpUG&index=7&t=0s

Hurricanes and Floods



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkivWVRyu0k>

Phrase Ideas: *Before* the disaster

- Will the disaster (wildfire, flood, hurricane) reach us ?
- Will we be safe?
- Where is our *Go Bag*?
- Can I put my _____ in the Go Bag?
- Everyone is talking about this at school.
- I'm feeling _____



Emergency Checklist with Symbols

Phrase ideas *During* the disaster: Shelters or Alternative Housing

- It's too noisy!
- I've never slept on a cot!
- Are my _____ (friends, teacher, grandparents, pets) safe?
- When can we go home?
- When can I go back to school?
- I'm feeling _____
- I miss my _____



Phrase Ideas: *Recovery* and long-term.








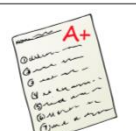

- **Relevant phrases** will be determined by what happened **before** and **during** the disaster.
- As with all important events (positive and negative), individuals who rely on AAC want to share what happened
 - With many people
 - Over an extended period of time.
- **Visual Scene Displays** may be excellent match for the recovery phase. Photo books help children tell and retell their stories.



“We lived in a hotel for nearly EIGHT months after Hurricane Harvey. This is me, my brother and my baby sister at the hotel.”

Vocabulary Review

Emergency (911) or NOT

 Car Accident	 Camp Fire	 Making a Snowman
 Lose a Tooth	 House Fire	 Flash Flood
 Alone in a Blizzard	 Pop Quiz	 Broken Window

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Can be used as a Bingo or Tic-Tac-Toe Board with discussion about why a scene IS or IS NOT an emergency.

Find The Match: emergency signs and symbols
Match the picture with the word

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	One Way
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop Sign
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	911 Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Girls Bathroom
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danger
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ambulance

Matching Pictures with Words copyright 2019 Lessonpix.com

Match the Emergency or Community symbol with its Meaning.



Highlight and discuss vocabulary from FEMA videos. Look for HAZARD symbols online or at school.

Helping your students be prepared

- ✓ Develop units on **emergencies and disasters** for students across the age span that includes a focus on **relevant vocabulary** for the **age/grade level**.
- ✓ Check that the **vocabulary** is available within the AAC system(s) so that the child can be a full participant in discussions on **Emergencies, Safety, and Planning**.
- ✓ Consider discussing **Emergency Preparedness** as part of any Transition Plan.
- ✓ **FEMA** has a series of short videos on YouTube that discuss and explain **Emergency and Disaster Vocabulary**. These can jump start a conversation about Preparedness.
- ✓ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCAqm8U8k60>



RESOURCES for RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

AAC Disaster Relief

<https://aacdisasterrelief.recovers.org/>

The logo for USSAAC (United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication) features the acronym "USSAAC" in a large, bold, red serif font. Below it, a thin yellow horizontal line separates the acronym from the tagline "THE VOICE OF AAC", which is written in a smaller, bold, red sans-serif font.

USSAAC
THE VOICE OF AAC

Be a Part of the Solution! (People who use AAC and their families)

- **Make a plan** – practice the plan!
- Learn about and **participate in emergency** planning efforts in your community.
- **Be a volunteer!** Participate in disaster drills; join a **VOAD**.
- **Identify yourself to first responders** and emergency personnel but understand the limitations of registries.
- Sign up for **emergency alert systems**.
- **Understand the terminology** – e.g. storm warning vs. storm watch.

Be a Part of the Solution! (Providers)

- SHARE THE RECOVERS WEBSITE
- <https://aacdisasterrelief.recovers.org/>
- Make a plan – **practice the plan!**
- Learn about and participate in **emergency planning** efforts in your community.
- **Be a volunteer!** Train first responders and emergency personnel in how to communicate with people who have limited speech (e.g. Mankey & Rang, https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=1wuZGcyt-EY)
- Join a VOAD.
- Provide users with appropriate vocabulary and terminology.
- Create and share social stories about emergencies and disasters.

USSAAC Disaster Relief Grants: Purpose

- Build applicant's knowledge/capacity in the area of emergency preparedness
- Restore AAC capacity in a region affected by disaster (US)
- Promote /support personal preparedness training for people with complex communication needs and their families
- Provide training to professionals/volunteers in the emergency management system to better support people who use AAC (e.g. shelter staff; emergency planners; first responders)



USSAAC Disaster Relief Grants: **Eligibility**

- USSAAC members, including higher ed faculty on behalf of their students
- USSAAC members who are disaster survivors, or who reside in an area frequently experiencing natural disasters
- Individuals who use AAC/families who have received services from USSAAC's Disaster Relief Committee



USSAAC Disaster Relief Grants: **More Info**

- Activities may include: attend a conference or meeting on disaster preparedness; present at a conference on this topic; conduct a training on personal preparedness for people who use AAC/their families
- Up to **\$1000** (includes expense REIMBURSEMENT)
- Competitive application process
- Contact membership@ussaac.org to request an application, or for additional questions

Tip of the Iceberg

QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?





The USSAAC Webinar Series

ASHA CEUs

<http://www.ussaac.org/webinars>

- Free to USSAAC members
- \$25 for non-members
- Go to website for participant form and Certificate of Attendance
- Scan and email your completed [CEU form](#) to smeehan8@ku.edu NO LATER THAN October 3, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. ET

Complete Evaluation Survey

<http://www.ussaac.org/webinars>

Archived USSAAC webinars

<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/webinars/>

- Video and slides for all webinars
- Available in a few days

Thank you



ISAAC is excited to announce that **ISAAC 2020**, the 19th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, will be held at the Cancún International Convention Centre (ICC) in beautiful **CANCÚN**, adjoining the Riviera Maya on México's Caribbean coast.

AUGUST 1-2

AAC Camp, Pre-Conference Workshops, Executive and Council Meetings

AUGUST 3-6

Main Conference at the Cancún ICC, México

Surrounded by Mayan culture and with easy access to beautiful beaches, tours, shops and restaurants of both Cancún and the Riviera Maya, the ISAAC conference will feature AAC events and perspectives; cutting edge research and clinical innovations; workshops, seminars, exhibits, social events, and entertainment, all in a unique cultural setting.

**Mark your calendar today, and save
the date for ISAAC 2020 in Mexico!**

**For more information, visit us at www.isaac-online.org
and follow #ISAAC2020 on Twitter.**

isaac
International Society for
Augmentative and Alternative Communication

www.isaac-online.org



ISAAC se complace en anunciar que el próximo XIX congreso de la Sociedad Internacional de Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa, se llevará a cabo en el Centro Internacional de Convenciones (ICC) de la bella ciudad de **CANCÚN**, contigua a la Riviera Maya de la costa del caribe mexicano.

1-2 DE AGOSTO

Campamento de CAA, Talleres Preconferencia, Juntas Ejecutivas y del Consejo

3-6 DE AGOSTO

Congreso principal en el ICC de Cancún, México

Rodeado por la cultura maya y con fácil acceso a playas hermosas, tiendas, restaurants y tours tanto de Cancún como de la Riviera Maya, el congreso de ISAAC contará con eventos de CAA, perspectivas, lo último en investigaciones e innovaciones clínicas, talleres, seminarios, exposiciones de las compañías más importantes, eventos sociales y entretenimiento. Todo en un sitio culturalmente único.

**¡Anótalo en tu calendario y aparta
la fecha para ISAAC 2020 en México!**

Para mayor información, consulta nuestro sitio web www.isaac-online.org
y síguenos en Twitter **#ISAAC2020**

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