



ENLA Member Preparedness Goals

- I. Develop a Disaster Mission Statement
 - a. What will we do, when, and for whom?
- II. Make a plan
 - a. Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
 - b. Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- III. Get leadership prepared
 - a. Lead by example, and make sure you're ready to come to work after a disaster...because you know your family will be ok
- IV. Get members/clients/staff prepared
 - a. Encourage people to get a kit, make a plan, and be ready
- V. Exercise the plan
 - a. Practice makes perfect! This is where you find gaps in your plans, and helps improve your ability to plan ahead. September is National Preparedness Month every year, and the Great California ShakeOut (<http://www.shakeout.org/>) is held every October. Check out these great opportunities to work with many organizations statewide and nationally to practice your preparedness.

Terms defined:

ENLA's members serve a large range of Los Angeles residents. Oftentimes, agencies serve people with special needs in some other capacity. For example, a church serves many seniors and people with disabilities, but doesn't provide services *for* the disability – they serve the spiritual needs of those people. In times of disaster, that same church may need to provide services for people using wheelchairs or oxygen, or those who have communication challenges. When you are writing your plan, take a moment to think about the people your organization serves, and what they might need from you.

For our purposes, *“people with disabilities and seniors includes people who are ‘vulnerable’ or ‘at risk’ and cannot always comfortably or safely use some of the standard resources offered in disaster preparedness, relief, recovery and mitigation. They may include people who have a variety of visual, hearing, mobility, cognitive, emotional, and mental limitations, as well as older people, people who use life-support systems, people who use service animals, and people who are medically or chemically dependent”.*

-- Serving and Protecting All by Applying Lessons Learned – Including People with Disabilities and Seniors in Disaster Services – Kailes – March 2006

Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, Collaboration

Emergency Network of Los Angeles – the Los Angeles County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)
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