

"i" Am Ready: "Apps" for Emergency Preparedness

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Pass It On
C E N T E R

National Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Coordination and Technical Assistance Center

www.passitoncenter.org



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The Pass It On Center (the Center) is actively addressing issues of national significance in AT device reutilization, providing technical assistance to entities engaged in or planning to engage in AT device reutilization, and coordinating and networking entities involved in AT device reutilization. This Knowledge Base is a product of the Center and contributing AT reuse programs throughout America.

New to the knowledge base

[Expanding AT Reuse Through Partnerships](#)

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Hot Topics

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Policies and Procedures Checklists

- [Choosing Board Members](#)
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Learner Objectives

1. Name three apps for iOS devices and one for an android device that can contribute to effective emergency planning or response.
2. Describe three features that are helpful components in an emergency
3. Describe how an app for a mobile device might increase access to assistive technology devices and services, including AT reuse, and the features that would be helpful



Apps

- 120+ available
- Free - \$9.99+
- Accessibility?
- Content related to people with disabilities? To AT/DME?

“App” Categories – Disasters and Emergencies

Educational: Getting Ready

Medical History/In Case of Emergency (ICE)

Instructions

Alerts, Locators and Panic Buttons (“SOS”)

Communication

Other special features

1. Educational Apps

- A reference “ebook” that covers important topics for planning, e.g. creating a disaster plan, creating a “go kit”, special considerations in planning e.g. children, people with disabilities, pets

***Disaster Survival Guide**

- \$.99
- Adjustable font type, size, and color
- Basic level of information divided into short chapters
- All text
- Addresses people with disabilities, AT (limited) and medical devices
- Tendency to jump to advertising for other apps

***Get a Game Plan**

- Prepared by Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana (many features are LA-specific)
- Comprehensive
- Interactive checklist features
- Connections to social networks for alerting and real time information about local conditions (e.g. road closures), evacuation routes, shelter locations
- Focus on hurricanes and severe weather of all kinds
- AT/DME – “special medical needs”
- Free

***Ready Georgia**

- Prepared by Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Georgia Department of Public Health (many features are Georgia-specific)
- Available for iPhone and Android
- Free
- Comprehensive information: creating/updating Ready profile, checklist for emergency supplies, informational content on threats
- Local disaster history, stream gauges, and geo-located maps

***Disaster (Readiness Guide)**

- Comprehensive, covering everything from weather-related and other natural events to chemical emergencies, nuclear blasts, and terrorism
- Includes “how to” , e.g. purify water
- Convenient search function
- Contains NO information addressing people with disabilities
- \$1.99

2. Medical history/records/ICE

- Contains key medical information for individual (may include family members) – identifying information, vital statistics (including health insurer ID); allergies; medications
- May include advance medical directives
- Includes medical provider contact information (doctors, pharmacy; hospital preference)
- Usually does not include information about AT devices or service providers

Medical history/records/ICE

- Typically a component of multi-featured apps (especially ICE apps like ICE for iPad, \$1.99)
- CAUTION: keep your medical information secure!! Use an app like My Secret Files (\$5.99) or Safe Lite (\$1.99)
- ICE entries in cell contacts are commonplace (do you have one?)

3. Instructions

- Quick reference to assist in on the spot intervention
- Especially helpful on smart phones, which are likely to be handy in the emergency
- Examples: Free CPR; iMobileCare (\$1.99)

***First Aid (Vers. 4)**

- Compatible with 2011 American Red Cross, American Health Association, and international standards at the time of publication
- Intended as a reminder of basic first aid and CPR information for both untrained and trained healthcare providers
- Covers many topics, across the age span: choking, CPR, bleeding, burns, poison, frostbite, drowning, births...
- \$0.99

4. Alerts/notification systems; locators and panic buttons

- Best suited for smart phones (vs. iPad)
- Press button or shake phone to dial 911
- Feature may be programmed to report position to police, medical services, friends
- Mobile alert notification SMS systems – register zip code to receive personalized information

Alerts/notification systems, emergency dialers, locators and panic buttons

- City alerts (free) – notification and advice
- 9-1-1 alerts (free) - connects to 911, sends notifications to one's "personal protection network"
- *Call 9-1-1- Pro (\$.99) – locator; provides vibration feedback confirming call has gone through
- Silent Bodyguard (\$.99) – silent call for help with locator
- *Kid SOS (free) – touch icon/photo to make emergency contact

5. Communication

- App provides keyboard, words, symbols, or signs that could be used for communication in the event the individual doesn't or can't speak (e.g. locabulary, life card)
- Consider developing a customized “page” for emergency/disaster as part of preparation for people who have complex communication needs who use mobile devices for communication
- May include foreign language translation apps (e.g. free translator)

EC4ALL (Emergency Communication for All)

- Android only
(available from the Google app store)
- \$3.00
- Evidence-based
<http://disabilities.temple.edu/aac/vocabulary/EMERGENCY.shtml>



***Let's Sign – In Case of Emergency**

- Over 65 “in case of emergency” signs that will help to understand a Deaf individual in an emergency situation
- Signs are static drawings with written descriptions of the hand movements and facial expressions
- \$.99
- Other signing apps that use animated avatars may be better (e.g. *Sign4me, *iSignLite)
- Does not take the place of a qualified interpreter!!

6. Other special features

- Usually in addition to educational, how-to, ICE, etc.
- Compass
- Flashlight or other signaler
- RSS feed

***iMPrepared**

- Addresses developing kits for home, vehicle and work and check-able lists for same
- Also includes contact information, personal emergency information, ICE
- Unique feature: part of the “app” includes “help tools” - a compass and a flashing SOS
- RSS feed capabilities for weather service, FEMA disaster alerts, DC metro rail disruption
- free

And recommended by <http://appadvice.com/applists/show/apps-for-emergencies>:

- wikiHow: How to and DIY Survival *includes extreme scenarios, e.g. escape a car on a cliff (Free)
- Winter Survival Kit (Free)
- GotoAID First Aid *read aloud option helps you provide first aid hands free; information is cached on your phone so no internet needed (\$4.99)
- Pet First Aid (\$3.99)
- SAS Survival Guide *no cell signal needed; includes sun compass for devices with no built-in GPS and a Morse code signaling device (\$5.99)

Keep your smartphones, BBs and iOS devices ready and functioning!

- Label your devices
- Keep your devices charged
- Know where your charger is
- Have alternative chargers: car; solar-powered
- Special waterproof/floating containers

Familiarize yourself with the app content BEFORE the emergency or disaster!

Be able to meet any emergency
situation with confidence...and save
battery power in an emergency



disabilitytips.tamu.edu

- A website that “fits” in a smart phone or blackberry screen
- Handy tips for first responders “in the field”, ranging from disability etiquette to one- or two-people assists to move a person in a wheelchair
- Some TX specific information (Texas A&M)

How can “apps” – or mobile information – assist in access to AT (including reused devices) in emergency response and recovery?

- What would the content be?
- Format?
- Platform?
-





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... the National AT Reuse Center

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DISCLAIMER

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