e-ACCESS
Your accessible route to fire and life safety information for people with disabilities.

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March, 2011
Volume 3, Issue 4

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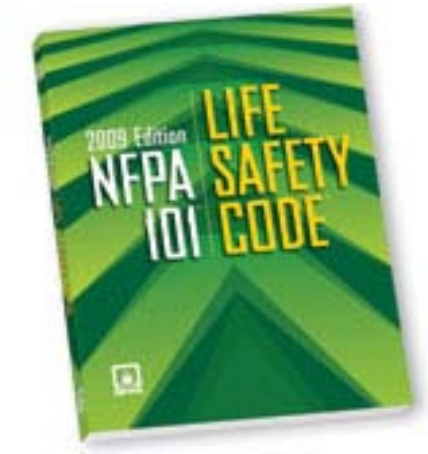
"There's an App for That!"

By Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA, Sr. Building Code Specialist, NFPA

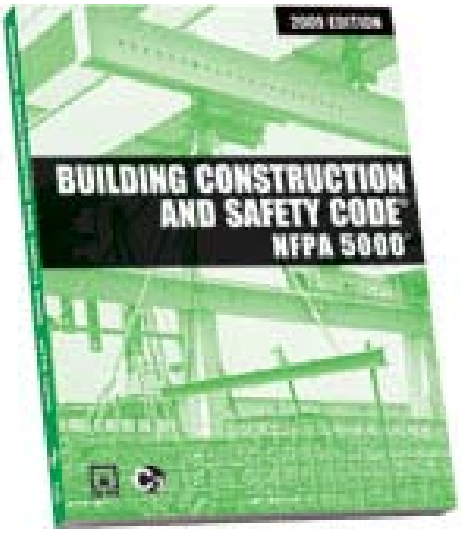
"Your accessible route to fire and life safety information for people with disabilities" is what the *e-ACCESS* banner at the top of this page proclaims. I want to be true to that scope, so I've been thinking a lot about what that statement really means relative to people with disabilities.

NFPA's mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

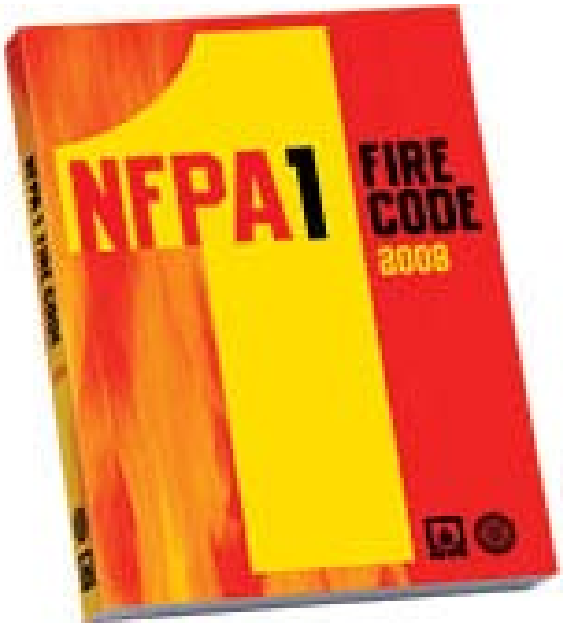
Three (3) of our major codes specifically use this mission in their respective purpose clauses:



NFPA 101®: The purpose of this code is to provide minimum requirements, with due regard to function, for the design, operation, and maintenance of buildings and structures for safety to life from fire. Its provisions will also aid life safety in similar emergencies.



NFPA 5000®: The purpose of the code is to provide minimum design regulations to safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare and to minimize injuries by regulating and controlling the permitting, design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of all buildings and structures in the jurisdiction and certain equipment specifically regulated herein.

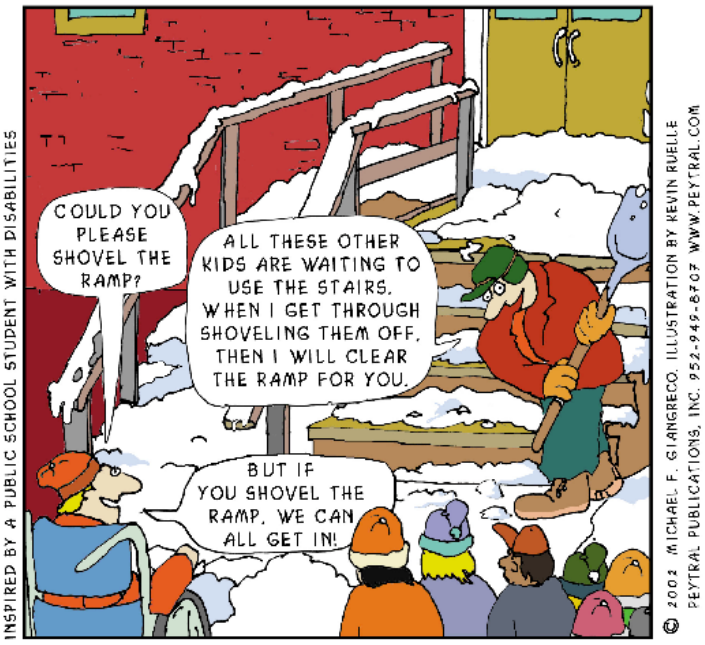


NFPA 1: The purpose of this code is to prescribe minimum requirements necessary to establish a reasonable level of fire and life safety and property protection from the hazards created by fire, explosion, and dangerous conditions.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate puts the question of "what is fire and life safety information as related to people with disabilities?" into focus each and every time he talks about the numbers. "The population in the United States is 20% people with disabilities. Twenty to 25% are children 12 years and younger, 12% are 65 and older, and 10 to 15% are living in poverty. That's over 60% of the population who will need help in the event of an emergency. So we are actually planning for only 40% or less of the population. Why? Because it's easy! But it isn't real!" Administrator Fugate's mission is to get FEMA and all of us to plan for "real." NFPA supports, and is working towards, that goal.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate

So what information do people with disabilities need about to fire and life safety? It's simple. They need the same information everyone needs. The challenge is providing that information in multiple formats so everyone has access to it, understands it, and uses it at the same time and in the same way others do during an emergency. The design of the exit signs has become so universally accepted over time that the actual word "Exit" is used and is understood even by those who don't speak English. However, exit signs don't do anything for a person who is blind because the message isn't in a format that he or she can access. I keep returning to this simple yet incredibly elegant cartoon by Michael F. Giangreco.



CLEARING A PATH
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!

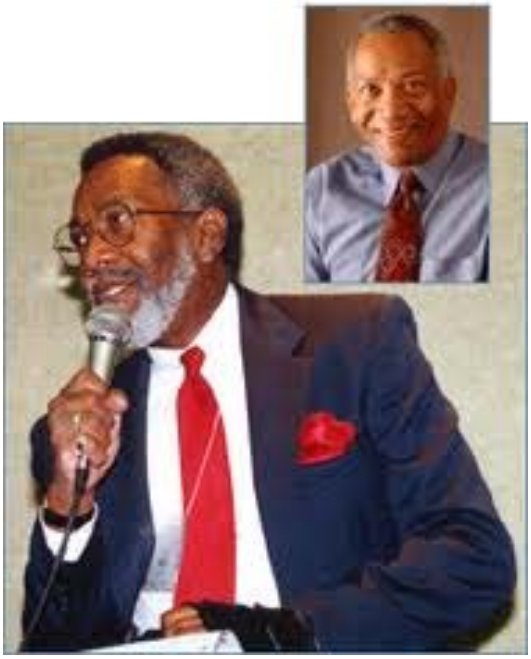
We need to change our mindset and work towards making sure that all emergency systems work for everyone. The same message must get to those of us who can't see or hear. Information about finding a way out of a building must be delivered in formats that those who are blind or can't comprehend the written massage can understand, and those routes must be constructed so that those with mobility issues can traverse them by themselves or with assistive devices or minimal assistance.

Click to see some available technology

Imagine for a moment that you can't speak and have a very limited ability to move. Suddenly, there's an emergency. You know what you want to tell people to do to help you, but you can't. How do you communicate with them? We don't know what we don't know. Look at this amazing piece of technology and think about how it might be helpful in the event of an emergency. Just click here!

Lianna Bryant

Most of what people without disabilities know, see, hear, use, and do in an emergency is much more difficult, if not impossible, for people with disabilities.



Bill Scott

NFPA DARAC Chair Bill Scott says that "All people, regardless of their circumstances, have some responsibility for their own safety." It is everyone's job to be sure that those with disabilities can respond appropriately during an emergency, and rapidly evolving technology is helping them do just that.

Room Numbering, Labeling & Life Safety Go Hand in Hand

By Sharon Toji - Access Communications

Author Sharon Toji

Signs are usually the very last thing anyone thinks about when designing or remodeling a facility. What the signs say often depends on an intern in the architectural firm. In preparing the plans, this person assigns numbers to every room and space in a facility, and labels the use or occupancy of each numbered area.

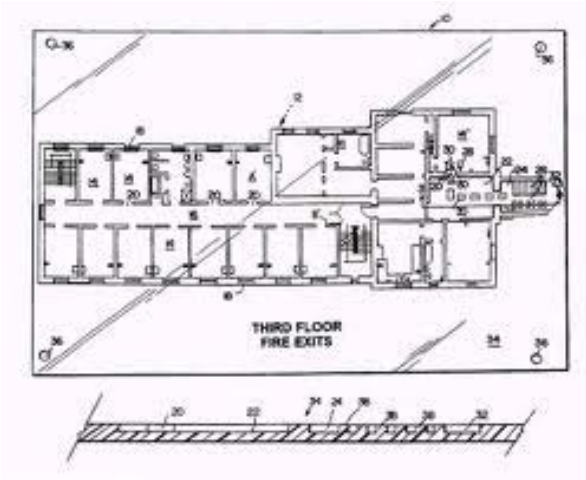
In some facilities, numbers start in one corner and run consecutively, even through barriers that will keep people from going into or through that area. If rooms are added during the design process, the numbers assigned to them may be totally unrelated to the original sequence. Numbering sequences may "disappear" inside larger areas or be assigned to storage closets, freezers, or water heater enclosures. Entryways, hallways, and corridors generally receive single numbers and generic labels, such as "Vestibule 100," that give no clue as to what rooms are behind those doors or what they are used for. Similar numbers and labels may even be repeated in several buildings within a complex.

Before the steadily increasing emphasis on security that began with 9/11, sign designers and manufacturers, building owners, and users could often negotiate with architects to renumber and rename rooms in logical ways that would enhance wayfinding for visitors and new users in the facility. Since sign companies also specialize in signage and communication for people with disabilities, logical numbering systems and room labeling that was easily readable and consistent is an important part of their mission. People with mobility impairments rely on logical and efficient wayfinding to save them from having to take roundabout routes. People with vision impairments like logical sequencing of numbers to find rooms, and people who are deaf want clear signage and logical sequencing of numbers, as they prefer to find their own way without having to ask others—if others are even available to ask.

Let's go one step further. Let's think about public safety and the need for first responders to get to specific locations in a facility quickly and efficiently. They, too, need consistent, logical room numbering and space labeling. Imagine trying to locate a person having a heart attack in room 533 and finding that it's not next to, or even near, 532 because it was added to the plans after the initial numbering was done and it's actually tucked inside 510?

Why do we end up with room labeling schemes that contradict logic for efficient wayfinding? After all, signs are virtually the last things installed in a facility before the final cleaning. Since most signs can be fabricated in six weeks or less, why can't room numbering and naming be done in a logical and consistent manner that reflects the final layout and use of the facility? Often, just walking through a nearly completed facility, one can quickly and easily determine exactly where directional signs are needed and what system of numbering works best whether it be odd/even, consecutive across hallways, or along each side. So why don't new public buildings open with room labels that actually reflect what the rooms' use is?

Interestingly, and maybe even ironically, the reason seems to be that new, elaborate security and alarm systems that are being designed for use in buildings. These security systems are being installed, programmed, and inspected very early in the construction process. The programmers for these systems use the original blueprint numbers and space labels, and are oblivious to the fact that the numbering may be completely illogical and that the space labels may not reflect the actual use of the room and may not be the common terminology used and understood by the facility owner or public. With the security system being in place first, the signs now mirror whatever was programmed into the security system, rather than the physical reality and what may be logical for human navigation.



This disconnect is easily avoidable during the architects' design work. The seemingly innocuous numbering and labeling that leads to bad wayfinding practices need not be set in stone. Educating design professionals about the negative public safety effects of a haphazard numbering and labeling system and engaging a wayfinding communications expert in the early stages of the planning process will ensure that the security system will reflect efficient wayfinding signage.

It's important that when Mom and Dad go to "Back to School" night they can find the correct classroom. It's also important that a substitute teacher who uses crutches and braces doesn't have to spend all her energy going in the wrong direction trying to find an out-of-sequence room. It may be a matter of life and death when first responders waste precious time because room numbers and names make no sense. Building owners and code officials must insist on well-designed numbering and labeling systems as a matter of life safety and emphasize to security designers that wayfinding planning must be an integral part of the design process.

Sharon Toji is well known in the access community as a proponent of accessible signage and communication. She currently represents the Hearing Loss Association of America on the ANSI A177.1 Committee. She is a member of the California Division of the State Architect's Access Committee, the task force working with the California State Fire Marshal on accessible emergency evacuation, and represents persons with cognitive disabilities on the Access Advisory Committee of the California State Building Standards Commission. As a member of the ANSI Committee on Signage, she helped write the complete revision of the signage section for the 1998 version of the ANSI A117.1 standard and represented the signage industry as a member of the Communications Subcommittee of the ADAAG Advisory Review Committee, whose report formed the basis of the 2010 ADA design standards approved by the United States Department of Justice last summer. Her resource manual, Signs and the ADA, *was written to help designers, fabricators, and code officials.*

FCC's Video Programming and Emergency Access Advisory Committee

Announcement of Members

Chairman Julius Genachowski

On December 7, 2010, Chairman Julius Genachowski announced the establishment and appointment of members of the Video Programming and Emergency Access Advisory Committee (VPEAAC), an advisory committee required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (the Accessibility Act). [1] In a public notice released on October 19, 2010, the commission solicited nominations for membership on the VPEAAC in accordance with the Accessibility Act.[2] The nominations period closed on November 1, 2010.[3]

The committee's first meeting was held on **January 13, 2011**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at commission headquarters. All meetings of the committee are open to the public.

VPEAAC MISSION

The purpose of the VPEAAC is to develop recommendations on closed captioning of Internet programming previously captioned on television;[4] the compatibility between video programming delivered using Internet protocol and devices capable of receiving and displaying such programming to facilitate

[1] Pub. L. No. 111-260.
[2] *FCC Requests Nominations for Membership on Video Programming and Emergency Access Advisory Committee in Accordance with the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act,* Public Notice, DA 10-2002 (CGB rel. Oct. 19, 2010).
[3] *Id.* at 4.
[4] Section 201(e) of the Accessibility Act generally lays out the directives for the VPEAAC.

access to captioning, video description, and emergency information;[5] video description and accessible emergency information on television programming delivered using Internet protocol or digital broadcast television;[6] accessible user interfaces on video programming devices;[7] and accessible programming guides and menus.[8] Within 6 months of its first meeting, the VPEAAC will submit recommendations concerning the provision of closed captions for Internet-delivered video programming and the ability of video devices to pass through closed captions contained on Internet-based video programming. By April 8, 2012, the VPEAAC will submit recommendations on the remaining issues listed above.

At the VPEAAC's first meeting, the committee will be divided into the following four working groups, each of which will be assigned specific tasks related to the committee's purposes:

Working Group 1: Internet protocol based closed captioning

Identification of protocols, technical capabilities, and technical procedures needed to encode, transport, receive, and render closed captioning of video programming, except for consumer-generated media, delivered using Internet protocol.[9]

Working Group 2: Pass through of closed captioning and video description

Recommendations to ensure compatibility between video programming delivered using Internet protocol and devices capable of receiving and displaying such programming to facilitate access to closed captions and video description.

Working Group 3: Emergency information

Identification of methods to encode, transport, receive, render, and convey emergency information provided on video programming in a manner that is accessible to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

[5] Pub. L. No. 111-260, §§ 201(e)(1)(E); 201(e)(2)(E).
[6] *Id.* at § 201(e)(2)(B),(C).
[7] *Id.* at § 201(e)(2)(F),(G).
[8] *Id.* at § 201(e)(2)(H).
[9] *Id.* at § 201(e)(1)(B).

Working Group 4: Accessibility of user interfaces, apparatus functions, on-screen text menus, and video programming guides and menus provided on navigational devices

Identification and recommendation of standards, protocols, and procedures to enable access to these various features and functions.

Appointment of Members

By this Public Notice, the chairman of the commission appoints 45 (forty-five) members of the VPEAAC. Of this number, eleven (11) represent interests of persons with disabilities; six (6) represent interests of closed captioning and video description providers; ten (10) represent device manufacturers; four (4) represent Internet and software companies; two (2) represent broadcasters; and twelve (12) represent video programming distributors and providers. The VPEAAC's membership meets the Accessibility Act's goals of assembling a committee that has the technical knowledge and engineering experience needed to meet the tasks assigned. All appointments are effective immediately and shall terminate December 7, 2012, or when the committee is terminated, whichever is earlier.

The membership of the VPEAAC is designated by organization or affiliation, as follows:

- **Adobe, Inc**.—*Andrew Kirkpatrick*
- **Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions**—*Phyllis Anderson*
- **American Council of the Blind**.—*Melanie Brunson*
  - *Marlaina Leiberg, Patrik Patel, Alternates*
- **American Foundation for the Blind**.—*Brad Hodges*
- **American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness**.—*Louis Herrera*
- **AT&T**—*Leonardo Velazquez*
- **Audio Description Associates**—*Joel Snyder*
- **Bright House Networks**—*Jeffrey Cantrell*
- **Broadcast Interactive Media**—*Timur Yarnall*
- **Caption Colorado**—*Gary Rulh*

- *Chris Crosgrove, Alternate*

- **CBS**—*Mark Turits*
- **Center for Hearing and Communication**—*Joseph Gordon*
- **Chicago Lighthouse Service** – *Bill Jurek*
- **Comcast Cable**—*Charlie Kennamer*
- **Computer Prompting & Captioning**—*Sydney Hoffman*
- **Consumer Electronics Association**—*Brian Markwalter*
- **Cox Communications**—*Steve Watkins*
- **Digital Media Association**—*Lee Knife*
- **DirecTV**—*Robert Gabrielli*
- **Disney ABC Cable Networks**—*Vince Roberts*
- **EchoStar Technologies**—*John Card*
- **Google**—*Naomi Biladau*
  - *Ken Harrenstein, Alternate*
- **Hearing Loss Association of America**—*Lise Hamlin*
- **IDEAL Group**—*Steve Jabobs*
- **Iowa Radio Reading Service**—*Mary Evans*
- **LG Electronics**—*Wayne Luplow*
- **Microsoft**—*Ann Marie Rohaly*
- **Modulation Sciences, Inc.**—*Eric Small*
- **Motion Picture Association of America**—*Van Stevenson*
- **Motorola** – *Jeffrey Newdeck*
- **Music Television Networks**—*Christopher Heaton*
  - *Glenn Goldstein, Alternate*

- **National Association of Broadcasters**—*Kelly Williams*
- **National Association of the Deaf**—*Rosaline Crawford*
  - *Kelby Brick, Jeff Rosen, Alternates*
- **National Cable & Telecommunications Association**—*Andy Scott*
  - *Diane Burstein, Jill Luckett, Alternates*
- **National Captioning Institute**—*Beth Nubbe*
- **Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons**—*Cheryl Heppner*
- **Research in Motion**—*Greg Fields*
- **Rovi Corporation**—*Adam Powers*
- **Sony Electronics**—*Paul Hearty*
  - *Mark Eyer, Alternate*
- **Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc**.—*Claude Stout*
- **Turner Broadcasting System**—*Clyde Smith*
- **Verizon Technology Organization**—*Olu Akiwimi-Assani*
  - *James Ho, Alternate*
- **Vitac**—*Tim Taylor*
  - *Bob Beyers, Heather York, Alternates*
- **WGBH National Center on Accessible Media**—*Larry Goldberg*
- **World Wide Web Consortium**—*Judy Brewer*

ACCESSIBLE FORMATS

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice) or 202-418-0432 (TTY).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Pam Gregory, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 202-418-2498 (voice), 202-418-1169 (TTY), or Pam.Gregory@fcc.gov (e-mail); or Alison Neplokh, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 202-418-1083 or Alison.Neplokh@fcc.gov (e-mail).
The electronic version of the news release, is available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/headlines.html.

Federal Judge Orders Disaster Plan for LA Disabled

The City of Los Angeles discriminates against disabled people because it lacks specific plans to meet their needs in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, a federal court ruled February 11, 2011 in the first such decision in the country.

U.S. District Court Judge Consuelo Marshall

"Because of the city's failure to address their unique needs, individuals with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable to harm in the event of an emergency or disaster," U.S. District Court Judge Consuelo Marshall said.

Marshall ordered the city to meet with the plaintiffs, Audrey Harthorn, a Los Angeles resident who uses a wheelchair, and Communities Actively Living Independent and Free, a Los Angeles nonprofit independent living center, in the next three weeks to come up with a disaster plan for disabled people.

Click here to read more.

FCC's Emergency Access Advisory Committee

On December 7, 2010, Chairman Julius Genachowski announced the establishment, and appointment of members and Co-Chairpersons of the Emergency Access Advisory Committee (EAAC), an advisory committee required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (the Accessibility Act).[1] In a public notice released on October 19, 2010, the commission solicited nominations for membership on the EAAC in accordance with the Accessibility Act.[2] The nominations period closed on November 1, 2010.[3]

The EAAC will conduct monthly meetings during 2011. The first meeting was held on **January 14, 2011** at commission headquarters from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and subsequent meetings will be held on the second Friday of every month during 2011. All meetings are open to the public.

EAAC MISSION

The purpose of the EAAC is to determine the most effective and efficient technologies and methods by which to enable access to Next Generation 911 emergency services by individuals with disabilities. In order to fulfill this mission, the Accessibility Act directs that, within one year after the EAAC's members are appointed, the committee shall conduct a national survey, with the input of groups represented by the committee's membership, after which the committee will develop and submit to the commission recommendations to implement such technologies and methods. These recommendations will include the following, taking into account what is technically and economically feasible:[4]

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[1] Pub. L. No. 111-260.
[2] *FCC Requests Nominations for Membership on Emergency Access Advisory Committee in Accordance with the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act*, Public Notice, DA 10-2001 (CGB rel. Oct. 19, 2010).
[3] *Id.* at 3.
[4] Pub. L. No. 111-260, § 106(c).

(1) Actions needed for the migration to a national Internet protocol-enabled (IP) network to achieve reliable, interoperable communication that will ensure access to emergency services by people with disabilities;

(2) Protocols, technical capabilities, and technical requirements to ensure the reliability and interoperability necessary to ensure access to emergency services by people with disabilities;

(3) Technical standards for use by public safety answering points, designated default answering points, and local emergency authorities;

(4) Technical standards and requirements for communication devices, equipment, and technologies to enable the use of reliable emergency access;

(5) Procedures to ensure that IP-enabled network providers do not install features, functions, or capabilities that conflict with technical standards needed to achieve 911 emergency access by people with disabilities;

(6) Deadlines by which interconnected and non-interconnected Voice over IP (VoIP) service providers and manufacturers will achieve the actions required in the above paragraphs, where achievable, and for the possible phase out of current-generation TTY technology to the extent that this technology is replaced with more effective and efficient technologies and methods to enable access to emergency services by people with disabilities; and

(7) Rules to update the commission's telecommunications relay services regulations with respect to 911 services, as new technologies and methods for providing such relay services are adopted by providers of such relay services.

Appointment of Members

By this Public Notice, the chairman of the commission appoints thirty-two (32) members of the EAAC. Of this number, eleven (11) represent interests of persons with disabilities and researchers; seven (7) represent interests of communication service providers; six (6) represent interests of state and local

emergency responders and emergency subject matter technologies; three (3) represent vendors, developers, and manufacturers of systems, facilities, and equipment; three (3) represent federal agencies; and two (2) represent industry organizations. The EAAC's membership is designed to be representative of the commission's many constituencies, and the diversity achieved ensures a balance among individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders, as required by the Accessibility Act.[5] All appointments are effective immediately and shall terminate December 7, 2012, or when the committee is terminated, whichever is earlier.

Young man using accessible telecommunication equipment with his instructor.

The membership of the EAAC, designated by organization or affiliation as appropriate, is as follows:

- **American Foundation for the Blind—***Brad Hodges*
- **Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions—***John Snapp*
- **AT&T—***Brian Daly*
- **Avaya Labs—***Paul Michaelis*
- **Center for Public Safety Innovation/National Terrorist Preparedness Institute—***Christopher Littlewood*
- **City of Los Angeles' Department on Disability, and National Emergency Numbering Association's Accessibility Committee—***Richard Ray*
- **Comcast Cable—***Angel Arocho*

[5] Pub. L. No. 111-260, § 106(b).

- **Communication Service for the Deaf—***Alfred Sonnenstrahl*
- **CTIA, The Wireless Association—***Matthew Gerst*
- **Fairfax County Emergency Management—***Bruce McFarlane*
- **Gallaudet University—***Norman Williams*
- **Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center—***Donna Platt*
- **Louisiana National Emergency Numbering Association—***Roland Cotton*
- **Microsoft—***Bernard Aboba*
- **Norcal Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and E911 Stakeholder Council—***Sheri A. Farinha*
- **Omnitor—***Gunnar Hellstrom*
- **Partners for Access, LLC—***Joel Ziev*
- **Purple Communications—***Mark Stern*
- **RealTime Text Task Force (R3TF)—***Arnoud van Wijk*
- **Research in Motion (RIM)—***Gregory Fields*
- **Speech Communication Assistance for the Telephone, Inc. —***Rebecca Ladew*
- **TeleCommunications Systems, Inc.—***Don Mitchell*
- **Telecommunications Industry Association and the Mobile Manufacturers Forum—***David J. Dzumba*
- **Time Warner Cable Communications—***Martha (Marte) Kinder*
- **T-Mobile, 911 Policy—***Jim Nixon*
- **Trace R&D Center, University of Wisconsin (IT&Tel-RERC)—***Gregg Vanderheiden*
- **Verizon Communications—***Kevin Green*
- **Vonage Holding Corporation—***Brendan Kasper*
- **Washington Parish, LA, Communications District—***James Coleman*

Federal Agencies

- **Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency—***Marcie Roth*
- **U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division/DRS—***Robert Mather*
- **U.S. Department of Transportation, NHTSA—***Laurie Flaherty*

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has designated Richard Ray and David J. Dzumba as co-chairs of the EAAC.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
Cheryl King, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 202-418-2284 (voice), 202-418-0416 (TTY), or Cheryl.King@fcc.gov (e-mail); or Patrick Donovan, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 202-418-2413 or Patrick.Donovan@fcc.gov (e-mail).

The electronic version of the news release, available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/headlines.html.

"Getting Real"—2010 Inclusive Emergency Management National Capacity Building Training Conference

By Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA, Sr. Building Code Specialist, NFPA

Videos, transcripts, and more now available from the September 22–24, 2010, Conference in Baltimore, MD

In March 2010, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said "We don't plan for easy in FEMA, we plan for real." And virtually every community across the United States—as much as 50% of the population—needs assistance to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Among them, 20% of Americans have disabilities and may have access and functional needs that affect their ability to read or understand preparedness information, hear alerts and warnings, use accessible transportation during an evacuation, maintain their independence in a shelter, find accessible housing if theirs has been destroyed, access services to enable them to return to work, and deal with myriad other challenges. Despite this, real progress towards real preparedness is being made in communities committed to emergency planning that is inclusive of the participation and requirements of people with access and functional needs.

Gary Talbot, Mass Transit Authority Assistant General Manager for Accessibility flanked by an ASL interpreter.

I was fortunate to have been one of the 250 people to attend the "Getting Real" training conference, intended for members of the disability and emergency management communities. The interactive, three-day training conference brought disability and emergency management community leaders together to build the national capacity for inclusive emergency management practices and honored September as National Preparedness Month by training stakeholders in inclusive practices. This conference prepared leaders to engage and educate others on how to collaborate effectively in emergency preparedness and disaster response and recovery.

Richard Deyvelder, U.S. Department of Transportation's Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation

The event was hosted by FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination along with the FEMA National Protection and Preparedness Directorate, Individual & Community Preparedness Division; the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities; the National Council on Disability; the Department of Justice; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate; and the American Red Cross in coordination with the FEMA Emergency Management Institute.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate flanked by an ASL interpreter.

You can access video of all the speakers, transcripts, and presentation materials by clicking here.

Do you have a story to tell or information to share?

Our readers are people with disabilities, and their relatives, caregivers, and friends.

Our goals are to:

- Provide specialized information about fire and life safety for people with disabilities directly to those with disabilities and to those who help them to reduce or eliminate fire deaths and injuries, as well as those resulting from other emergencies.
- Provide a forum for the collection and dissemination of information for people with disabilities in support of DARAC's mission.
- Provide personal stories about events, ideas, or solutions from our readers that can guide others in similar circumstances.

Content for future editions will include:

- NFPA-related news
  - DARAC news
  - NFPA codes- and standards-related information
  - Fire safety tips
  - Emergency evacuation information
- Articles relating to the safety of people with disabilities from:
  - NFPA staff
  - DARAC members
  - Other national advocates
  - General news
  - Our readers
- Other standards-developing organizations' news
  - U.S. Access Board
  - ANSI/ICC A117, *Standard for Accessible Buildings and Facilities*
  - RESNA
  - U.S. Department of Justice
  - Other

We'd love to hear your stories and opinions! If you'd like to contribute an article or information consistent with the outline above, please e-mail them to Allan B. Fraser, senior building code specialist and *e-Access* coordinator, at *afraser@nfpa.org*.

Did You Miss an Issue?

No problem! You can read the back issues of *e-ACCESS* by clicking here.