

## **Opportunity to Comment:**

### **Access and Functional Needs Annex of the LA County Operational Area's Emergency Response Plan**

The LA County Office of Emergency Management is in the process of updating the *Access and Functional Needs Annex* to the *LA County Operational Area's Emergency Response Plan*. The Annex is currently in draft form. Before this version of the draft Annex is finalized, OEM is offering an opportunity for the public to provide feedback.

A link to the Annex is below as well as information about the Annex and directions for providing feedback.

### **PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS ANNEX**

The County is very interested in receiving and considering your feedback and has offered multiple options to do this. The comment period will be open from **November 30, 2010 through December 31, 2010**.

#### **1. Public Forum**

The Office of Emergency Management is holding a public forum to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback. The forum will be held on December 13th from 1-4pm at the Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. For more information [click here](#).

The public can offer oral comments to be read into record during this forum. Oral comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person per comment in order to afford the maximum number of people opportunity to contribute. Those providing comment will be asked to state their name, the page and line number they are referencing, and their comment/suggestion.

To see the agenda [click here](#)

#### **2. Instructions for Submitting Written Feedback**

Written comments will be accepted by US mail post marked no later than 12/31/10 or by email stamped no later than 5pm on 12/31/10.

All written comments must include:

- Name of person(s) submitting the comments
- Contact information including phone and/or email
- Page and Line number that the comment is referring to
- Comment/Suggestion

Here's a sample of a written comment:

**Name:** John Doe  
**Organization:** Name of organization  
**Contact Info:** (000) 123-4567  
**Address:** 999 Street, Los Angeles, CA

**Comment 1:**

Page 6, Line 15: *When referring to the ERP here, also provide the website where the ERP can be accessed.*

**Written comments can be emailed to:** [OEMcomments@ceooem.lacounty.gov](mailto:OEMcomments@ceooem.lacounty.gov) or can be mailed to:

Office of Emergency Management  
1275 N. Eastern Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90063  
AFN Plan Comments

3. If you are not able to provide written comment or attend the public forum, you may contact Rick Blackburn, Program Manager (323) 980-2843 or dial 2-1-1 for TTY/TDD. You will be asked to provide your name, a call back number, the page and line number you are referencing, and your comment.

## **VIEW THE ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS ANNEX**

**View the LA County Operational Area's Access and Functional Needs Annex**  
[click Here](#)

### **Questions and Answers about the Access and Functional Needs Annex**

The following Questions and Answers are provided to clarify the purpose and scope of the Emergency Response Plan and Annex. Consider this information as you review the Access and Functional Needs Annex and offer comment.

### **What is the LA County Operational Area's Emergency Response Plan?**

The Access and Functional Needs Annex is part of the LA County Operational Area's Emergency Response Plan. The plan can be downloaded at <http://lacoa.org/PDF/OA%20ERP.pdf> <http://lacoa.org/doclibrary.htm>. This Plan is not limited to a particular type of disaster or event, but is overarching in nature and applicable to nearly every type of incident.

The LA County Operational Area's Emergency Response Plan describes how the County will respond and coordinate that response during an emergency. The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for writing and updating the plan.

A plan is a continual work in progress. The LA County Office of Emergency Management, as well as many County departments and private and non-profit partners,

work continuously to further develop and improve plans to better protect and serve the public.

### **What is the Access and Functional Needs Annex?**

The purpose of an Annex is to focus in on a particular aspect and provide a greater level of detail than given in the main body of the Plan. The Plan includes several annexes in addition to the Access and Functional Needs Annex. For example, there are annexes on Terrorism, Tsunami Response, and Animal Response.

In the case of the Access and Functional Needs Annex there is more detail about how specific aspects of the response address access and functional needs. For example, there is information about the multiple ways that the County communicates emergency information and includes specific information about accessibility and reaching people with access and functional needs. There is also additional information on preparedness/outreach; transportation; sheltering; and voluntary registries.

### **What level of detail can be expected in these documents?**

The Plan and annexes provide a great amount of information; however they do not go into full detail about some of the more particular aspects of a response. More detailed information is available through each County department's specific emergency plans. For example, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for coordinating and providing emergency information to the County. While there is information about this in the Operational Area's Emergency Response Plan, the full details about how they do this on a daily basis and during emergencies, is detailed in the Sheriff's emergency plans.

### **What is meant by Access and Functional Needs?**

Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; who live in institutionalized settings; who are elderly; who are children; who are from diverse cultures; who have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking; or who are transportation disadvantaged.

This is consistent with the current definition that FEMA uses in the National Response Framework to define the term "special needs." The LACOA has decided to use "access and functional needs" in place of "special needs" as this terminology is consistent with current trends in California and nationally. Thus, be aware that these interchangeable terms mean the same thing.