# ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS LIASION OFFICER REPORT

**LOCATION:** Atmospheric River #03082023-387 (Region 1 – Southern Nevada – Lincoln County, Esmeralda County, Yomba Tribe (Nye County)), (Region 2 – Western Nevada – Carson, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Storey, Washoe) and (Region 3 – Eastern Nevada – Elko and White Pine County)

**Operational Period:** 11MAR23 – 18MAR23

**DESCRIPTION:** Flood – Alluvial Fan Flooding

# Liaison Partners, Coordination, and Actions

**NV AFN Disaster Coordination**

Upon being activated as the AFN Liaison Officer, under the Section of Operations I began updating the Nevada Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Disaster Coalition via email of the situation, impacts, and preparedness measures for current Atmospheric River. Requested amplification of NV DEM social media messaging, and amplification through their listrs of the new flooding page on the main NV DEM website. Requested Aging and Disability begin a readiness stance with outreach to clients and facilities in impacted jurisdictions. Compiled a list of sandbag locations and information on communities who were supporting people with disabilities and AFN who needed support deploying sandbags at their homes and shared with the group. Asked them to prepare for me to activate coordination calls as the situation progressed. Partners briefed:

* FEMA Region 9 Disability Integration Specialist
* Partnership for Inclusive Disaster (National Disability Partner)
* Nevada Division of Aging and Disability (ADSD
* Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
* Nevada Commission for Person’s who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
* Nevada Centers for Excellence in Disabilities
* Office of the Minority and Health Equity
* Division of Child and Family Services
* Division of Welfare
* Division of Healthcare Finance and Policy
* Red Cross
* Northern and Southern Centers for Independent Living
* Nevada VOAD

As the incident progressed, I activated coordination calls 13MAR23, at 2pm through 16MAR23 daily at 2pm to coordinate with the NV AFN Disaster Coalition to begin targeted out reach and support of Nevada’s Disability communities in affected jurisdictions. As the Liaison to the disability and AFN communities I began coordination calls with Aging and Disability Quality Assurance Program Manager Jennifer Fischmann and requested we begin contacting and getting awareness to local jurisdiction clients in their Programs for Frail & Elderly, Physically Disabled, Intellectual or Developmental Disability, and Early Intervention for medically frail children. Coordinated with Anna Olsen-Figueroa Manager ADSD community based care to reaffirm group home, assisted living, and other facilities were aware of the location of their emergency operations plans, reviewed it, and knew contact information for their local emergency management team. Coordinated with group to identify any primary or secondary concerns for populations in Lincoln County if needed to be evacuated.

**Nevada Governor’s Council for Developmental Disabilities**

Coordinated daily with my counter part Kimberly Palma-Ortega (Emergency Preparedness/ Access & Functional Needs/ Community Health Worker/Public Health Liaison) at the Nevada’s Governor’s Council On Developmental Disabilities.  Kimberly joined us on 1am Coordination calls after the NvOC was notified of potential dam failure in Lincoln County, and helped identify disability and access and functional needs concerns for evacuating Dry Valley, and Panaca with possible impacts in Caliente. Kimberly co-chaired the NV AFN Disaster Coalition with me, in support of operations to help find individuals in the disability community who can take action/provide resources if requested. Kimberly assisted in getting correct contact information for the juvenile justice youth camp in Caliente.

I request Kimberly be on standby to assist me with any just in time training that operations, ESF 8, or ESF 6 might request regarding sheltering and evacuation of Nevada’s with disabilities and access and functional needs. Kimberly took a readiness stance during operational period to support the NN DE AFN Liaison Officer. No just in time training was requested during this operational period.

**Operations:**

At request of NvOC manager and Operations Section Chief created excel spreadsheet with formulas to track resource request available vs deployed and assisted in maintaining updated operational resource request. Assisted operations in trying to coordinate flights for dam engineers to Lincoln County, NDOT unable to provide plane. Offered just in time training for National Guard, local jurisdiction, Team Rubicon, or who ever the Operations Section chief through would be assisting if evacuations needed in Lincoln County for CMIST compliant and supported best practices on evacuating individuals with disabilities and mobility assistive devices. Operations Chief declined at this time, still assessing needs. Offered just in time training and operational support in preplanning accessible evacuation messaging (ex: evacuation highway signs in Spanish and English, identifying ASL, Spanish resources for possible press conferences or radio broadcasts.) Operations declined at this time, still assessing needs.

**ESF 6**

Coordinated in support of ESF 6 with the American Red Cross Regional Disability Integration Specialist Fran Feldman to ensure AFN Kits were on sheltering trailers deployed by Red Cross form Utah to support sheltering operations in Lincoln County. Fran Fieldman also joined our 1am coordination calls for significant updates to share with her team, and to advise to the NV AFN Liaison would be available to support if there were unmet needs or concerns.

Coordinated with Mass Care ESF 6, asked if any just in time training or operational support needed in supporting feeding or identifying sanitation needs or points along evacuation routes for people with disabilities or AFN who cannot travel long distances, so we can have that information ready to deploy to targeted populations. Mass Care declined at this time, still assessing needs, does not expect facilitated evacuation route to be longer than an hour and half.

**ESF 8**

Coordinate with ESF 8 by including them in the NV AFN Disaster Coordination calls, to give them access to my disability partners, and facilitate a common operating picture. When impacts began in Lincoln County coordinated with the Lincoln County Liaison Bren McClean to get de-identified data and identified data for all of Lincoln County in case needed for evacuations. ESF-8 supported NV DEM AFN Liaison Officer through out operational period by sharing information, participating in coordination calls, and facilitating and explaining processes for using and getting identified data.

**ESF 15**

Coordinated with ESF 15 to create just in time preparedness documents (Communications Plan, Checklists) inclusive of people with disabilities. Coordinated with National and Nevada’s disability partners to amply all messaging from ESF 15 and promote flood page added to NV DEM website. Used NV AFN Disaster Coalition to review and provide feedback directly from the disability community in the forms and graphics being deployed by ESF 15.

**FEMA Region 9 Disability Integration Specialist**: Roxann Crawford

Updated through FEMA Region 9 through daily phone calls, and inclusion on the NV AFN Disaster Coalition Coordination calls. Requested Disability Integration Specialist to support NvOC AFN Liaison Officer. Roxann already deployed to California, she tried to facilitate getting one deployed to Nevada, but no disability specialist available to support Nevada operations at this time.

**National Disability Partners:**

Joined National Coordination AFN Call facilitated by the Partnership of Inclusive Disasters on Tuesday 14MAR23 to brief National Disability partners on ongoing impacts in Nevada and request they support if needed through amplifying messaging form ESF 15 if needed. Prepared a situational presentation the 3pm national coordination call with the Partners for Inclusive Disasters, to update them on 3MAR16 of Echo Dam/Flooding situation in Lincoln County. Requested the Partnership (who also facilitate coordination of the national Association of Program for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)) used their social media platforms to post messaging about sheltering efforts in Lincoln County so disability communities in rural Nevada were getting the messages from trusted partners. National Partners Briefed:

* APRIL
* California Disaster Coalition
* Washington Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP)
* Arizona Partners in Preparedness
* Colorado AFN Chief
* Red Cross-National Headquarters Mary Casey Locker
* US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
* National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLHIC)
* Global Alliance for Disaster Resource Acceleration (GADRA\_
* Administration on Community Living (ACL)
* National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
* Partnership for Inclusive Disaster (National Disability Partner)
* World Institute of Disability (National Partner