Western PA Search and Rescue Development Center
Special Need Population and DMIS

Operation: Take Me Home

Resources for Emergency Personnel
Background

- Founded in 2000, Incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) in 2002
- 100 percent volunteer organization
- Our focus is solely on the Emergency Preparedness for the special need population
- In 2005, Argonne National Laboratory donated the special population planner to identify the special need population in the state of PA
- It is a GIS software program that allows us to identify potential hazards and prepare emergency response based on those hazards
Current Role

- Currently administer the special population programs for 15 of the 67 counties in PA
- Work with law enforcement, EMS, EMA, fire departments and third party agencies in all of the 67 counties to identify the special need population in their communities so they may be included in emergency planning
- WPSARDC members are spread out in 7 counties throughout the state.
Cause and Effect

• March 22, 2008 National Response Framework released that requires federal, state and local governments along with NGO’s must include special population and pets in their emergency plans.

• December 18, 2008 – NIMS was updated and released that expands on the NRF for response.

• February 18, 2009 – WPSARDC implemented Phase I of our Business Continuity Plan and became a virtual/mobile organization to accommodate our members and increase response time in the event of an emergency or disaster.
How We Operate
Geocoding
Filtering Data
Disadvantages

• GIS is an expensive software package and not all agencies that we share information with has it.
• Learning curve is high. It is not intuitive and must be learned so that information can be utilized.
• Our own members are volunteers and there is very little time to learn new computer skills so the responsibility falls on one person to manipulate data and send it out to other agencies.
DMIS

• Easier to Learn
• Includes GIS support
• Able to reach more agencies in a shorter amount of time with detailed information.
Incident

Incident Information
- Incident Number: PL032907A
- Incident Name: Smith walkaway
- Date/Time of Incident: 03/26/2004 06:27 AM
- Description: Alzheimer's patient walked away from home
- Incident Phase:
- Incident Notification Level:
- Incident Status: Unknown
- Incident Severity: Emergency

General Comments:
Last seen @ 7:00 am today
Site information
Other Information
File Attachments
Web Access to Information
Web-Based Map
Details including Attached Files
Goals

- Bring all members of WPSARDC up to speed with DMIS training
- As agencies adopt special need population programs, we want to work with them to form their COG’s to share information with the proper agencies.
- Provide Emergency planning for the special need population that is equal or greater to the typical population
Contact Information

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