



Bulletin

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This is the last issue of the Bulletin that will be printed and mailed to IAEM-USA Individual members. The Bulletin will continue as a monthly members-only online publication.

**Call for Nominations:
IAEM-USA Second VP
and Secretary
Nominations Deadline:
Aug. 15, 2014
Details on Page 12**

**IAEM Bulletin
Call for Articles
“Resilience: Practical
Applications”
Submissions Deadline:
May 10, 2014
Details on Page 14**

Children in Disasters: IAEM-USA Caucus Considers Their Unique, Distinct Needs

By Drew Bumbak, CEM, Chair, IAEM-USA Children in Disasters Caucus

Children are our nation’s future, and as such, are our nation’s most precious resource. Children comprise approximately 25% of the population of the United States, and they have distinct needs in disasters that often differ from the needs of adults.

On weekdays, approximately 68 million children are in school or child care settings. While our modern culture accepts that most children will spend as many as 12 hours per day in a group setting, with fewer adults to watch over and take care of them than in more traditional cultures, children in these settings are much more vulnerable to the consequences of disasters. In a disaster, these children face more risks because they are separated from their families.

Unprepared

Despite the focus the United States has had on emergency management over the past 10 years, as a nation we are distressingly unprepared to provide for the needs of children affected by disasters. Furthermore, disasters, which are inevitable, are growing in both frequency and severity.

In its *2010 Report to the President and Congress*, the National Commission on Children and Disasters (NCCD) noted that only “a handful of states require basic school evacuation and family reunification plans.” Yet

these plans are critical to protecting children and bringing families back together after a disaster. Additionally, the NCCD reported shortfalls in our nation’s ability to provide for children affected by disasters, including hospitals and EMS agencies lacking appropriate medical equipment to treat children and the Strategic National Stockpile being “woefully understocked with medical countermeasures for children.”

Continued evidence of our lack of preparedness to provide for children affected by a disaster can be found in the annual Save the Children USA’s *National Report Card on Protecting Children in Disasters*. The most recent *National Report Card* presents data from Save the Children’s (STC) 2013 survey of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on their

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Bruce Lockwood, CEM, IAEM-USA President, shares a preparedness message and light sticks with kids visiting the IAEM booth at the FIRST® LEGO® League World Festival, Apr. 23-26, in St. Louis, Missouri. See more photos on Pages 5 and 9.

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Children in Disasters

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compliance with four preparedness criteria that are based on recommendations made by NCCD.

STC Survey Criteria

Each state must require all child care providers to have a *written* plan to address:

- Multi-hazard evacuation and safe movement of children to an alternate site.
- Notification of parents and family reunification procedures following an emergency.
- The particular needs of children with disabilities and those with access and functional needs, including a specific requirement of how all children with special needs will be included in the emergency plan.
- Schools, including public charter schools and private schools, must have a written disaster plan that addresses multiple types of hazards (not just fires and tornadoes) and covers multiple responses including evacuation, shelter-in-place and lockdown situations.

Little Action Has Been Taken Since NCCD Report Published

In the three-and-a-half years since the NCCD published its final report, little action has been taken to implement its recommendations. Some recent efforts to expand preparedness have been encouraging. However, at the close of 2013, 28 states and the District of Columbia do not require child care providers to meet all four of STC's recommended criteria. Seventeen states do not require child care providers to have a written evacuation plan. Twelve states have requirements that meet only one or none of the four criteria.

Mission of IAEM-USA Caucus

The IAEM-USA Children in Disasters Caucus aims to change our nation's lack of preparedness to provide for the needs of our children affected by disasters. The caucus started as an ad hoc committee that played an instrumental role in developing FEMA's IS-366 – Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters. Last year, the IAEM-USA Board of Directors designated the committee as a caucus.

We now have more than 20 key priorities, which were developed through member input and shaped by the recommendations of NCCD. These priorities illuminate our path forward and our continuing work on issues related to providing for children affected by disasters.

We work with other IAEM-USA caucuses and committees to coordinate efforts on overlapping areas of interest, and advance the cause of providing for children in disasters. With more than 70 members, we have representation in nine of the 10 IAEM-USA Regions (none currently from Region 2) and just over half the states and the District of Columbia.

We meet monthly via teleconference, and members who have agreed to a leadership role on various caucus priorities hold additional meetings as required. The IAEM-USA Children in Disasters Caucus is helping to make a real difference in preparedness at the local, state and federal level.

Find Out More

If you're interested in

Seeking Interested Members

The Children in Disasters Caucus is actively seeking IAEM members to represent IAEM-USA Region 2, as well as these states:

Arizona	New Jersey
Arkansas	New York
Hawaii	Ohio
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Louisiana	Rhode Island
Maine	South Dakota
Michigan	Tennessee
Minnesota	Vermont
Mississippi	West Virginia
Montana	Wisconsin
Nebraska	Wyoming
Nevada	
New Hampshire	

If you are interested, please contact Drew Bumbak, CEM, Children in Disasters Caucus Chair, at dbumbak@yahoo.com.

making a difference in the lives of children affected by a disaster, and having an impact on emergency management and our nation for generations to come, consider joining the Children in Disasters Caucus. Visit our page at <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=groups/us-caucuses/children-in-disasters&lvl=2> for more information.

