

Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Special Needs in Alabama

**Current Research and Findings
Conference on Emergency Preparedness for
People with Disabilities**

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*A U.S. Department of Energy
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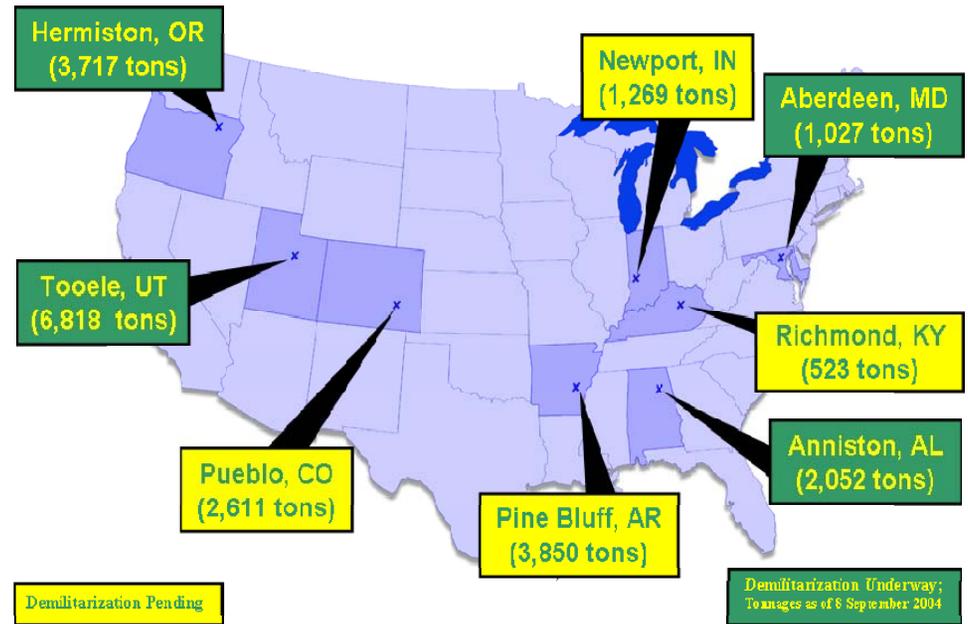


Presentation Purposes

- **Overview of Program Sponsoring Research.**
- **Explain the identification and update methods.**
- **Describe the distribution process modifications.**
- **Discuss sustainment initiative.**
- **Summarize key points.**

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Protects Nearby Communities

- CSEPP initiated because Army stores deteriorating chemical weapons at 8 domestic installations.
- Weapons being destroyed under federal statute and international treaty.



- Continued storage threatens airborne release into surrounding communities that could require immediate evacuation or sheltering-in-place.



Emergency Planning Zones Surrounding Anniston Army Depot

Immediate Response Zone (IRZ)

Area: 8-10 mile radius

Households: 31,000

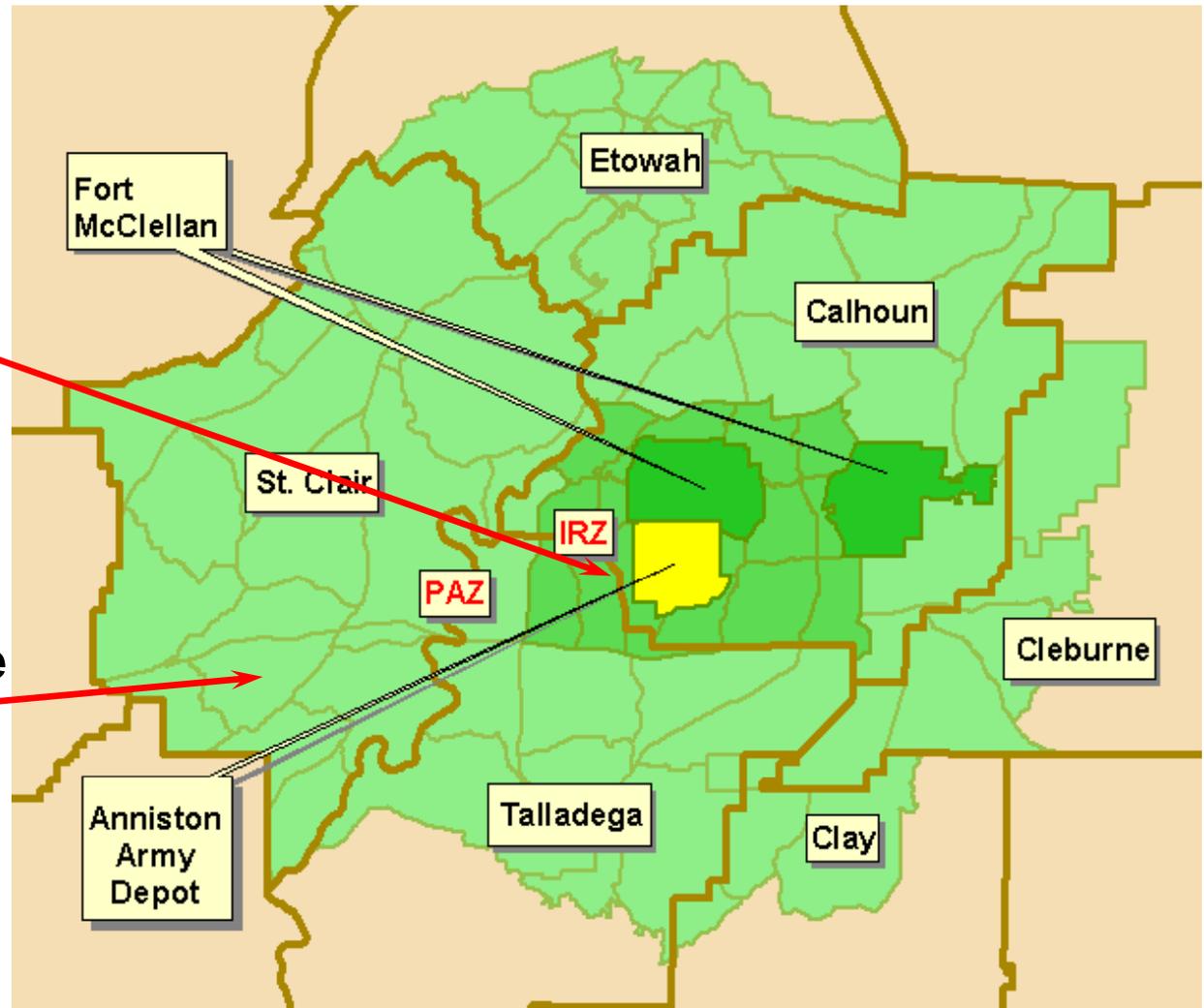
Population: 75,000

Protective Action Zone (PAZ)

Area: 25-35 mile radius

Households: 115,000

Population: 275,000



Special Populations Include:

- **People with disabilities or health problems;**
- **Who do not have cars or other means of transportation available to them; and**
- **Children who, at times, are not supervised by an adult and would need help in case of an emergency.**

Residents Were Generally Cooperative in Responding to Verification Mailing

Thanks so much!
 Let's all pray no accidents happen!

This Self-Registration Form is being used to register each fam Management Agencies seek to identify those needing help for planning purposes in case an accident occurs at the Anniston.

PLEASE PRINT

To be registered, you must provide the following information:

Name _____ Age _____
 Apartment/Lot number _____ Street number _____
 Street name _____
 City _____ Zip code _____ County _____
 Mailing address (if different) _____
 City _____ Zip code _____
 Phone number _____

1. Is there anyone in your household with physical or medical problems that make them unable to leave the area (evacuate) or to create a shelter environment at home if advised to do so by your county Emergency Management Agency? If so, please answer Questions 1 (a), 1 (b), 1 (c), and 1 (d):

1 (a) What makes her/him unable? (Please check all that apply)

Vision problem _____	Cannot walk well _____
Hearing problem _____	Wheelchair _____
Heart problem _____	Physically unable _____
On oxygen _____	Cannot move _____
Is confused _____	Confined to bed _____
Mentally disabled _____	Back problems _____
Cannot drive _____	

1 (b) What else? _____



A Positive Voice For Positive People

Residents of Calhoun an

HELP US HELP YOU ONCE

THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

physical or medical problems needs to create a shelter environment at home advised to do so by your county Emergency Management Agency?

Yes _____ No _____

2. In case a car is not available for you or your household during emergency, do you have someone (family, neighbor, relative, or friend) you can count on who will help you or your family to leave the area (evacuate)?

Yes _____ No _____

3 (a) Would there be times when children currently in your home are ake and needing assistance in an emergency?

Yes _____ No _____

3 (b) If the answer to Question #3 (a) is YES, then do you have some (family, neighbor, relative, or friend) you can count on who will help the children during an emergency in case you are not at home?

Yes _____ No _____

This information is being gathered under the authority of the State Alabama for the purpose of planning an emergency response. The Sta of Alabama will protect your privacy and all private information tl you provide here.

Because potentially dangerous chemical weapons are currently stored at the Anniston Army Depot, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) is assisting the Calhoun and Talladega county emergency management agencies to enhance their emergency planning and public protection programs. Your assistance is needed for two important data collection efforts. Please provide the best information you can. The State of Alabama will protect your privacy and all private information you provide.

First, AEMA is asking those who have completed self registration forms—or those who have recently provided information to University of Alabama at Birmingham interviewers—regarding a need for help or special assistance in an emergency to participate once again. AEMA is asking those people who receive the Special Needs Data Verification Form this week in the mail to review the information. If the information is correct, please mail back the form in the accompanying envelope. If the information is not correct, please correct it before mailing back the form.

Second, AEMA will once again mail a self-registration form to every household in the Immediate Response Zone portion of Calhoun and Talladega counties, to an area extending outward 8-11 miles from the depot. This form offers everyone an opportunity to identify any person or any household that might need special assistance beyond what family, neighbors, and friends could provide during an emergency at the depot.

The purpose of both efforts is to identify those people or



SPECIAL-NEEDS DATA VERIFICATION FORM

CURRENT INFORMATION ON FILE	YOUR CHANGES
Name _____ Age <u>12</u>	Name _____ Age <u>13</u>
Address _____	Apt./Lot number _____ Street Number _____
City <u>Springville</u> Zip <u>35146</u> County <u>St. Clair</u>	Street name _____ St. _____
Mailing address (if different) _____	City <u>Madison</u> Zip code <u>35701</u> County <u>Etowah</u>
City _____ Zip code _____	Mailing Address (if different) _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
1. The person named above has physical or medical problems and would be unable either to leave the area (evacuate) or to create a shelter environment at home if advised to do so by my county Emergency Management Agency.	1. The person named above has physical or medical problems and would be unable either to leave the area (evacuate) or to create a shelter environment at home if advised to do so by my county Emergency Management Agency.
1(a) This person's problems include the following: Wheelchair _____ Cannot walk well _____ Confined to bed _____ Is confused _____ Vision problem _____ Heart problem _____ On oxygen _____ Cannot move _____ Hearing problem _____ Back problems _____ Physically unable _____ Mentally disabled _____ Cannot drive _____	1(a) This person's problems include the following: Wheelchair _____ Cannot walk well _____ Confined to bed _____ Is confused _____ Vision problem _____ Heart problem _____ On oxygen _____ Cannot move _____ Hearing problem _____ Back problems _____ Physically unable _____ Mentally disabled _____ Cannot drive _____
1(b) What else? _____	1(b) What else? _____
1(c) All the assistance this person needs to leave the area (evacuate) can be provided by myself and / or family members: Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1(c) All the assistance this person needs to leave the area (evacuate) can be provided by myself and / or family members: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____
1(d) All the assistance this person needs to create a shelter environment at home can be provided by myself and/or family members: Yes _____ No _____	1(d) All the assistance this person needs to create a shelter environment at home can be provided by myself and/or family members: Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. In case a car is not available during an emergency, someone (family, neighbor, relative, or friend) can be counted on to help me/my family to leave the area (evacuate): Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. In case a car is not available during an emergency, someone (family, neighbor, relative, or friend) can be counted on to help me/my family to leave the area (evacuate): Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____
3(a) There are times when children currently in our home would be alone and needing assistance in an emergency: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____	3(a) There are times when children currently in our home would be alone and needing assistance in an emergency: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____
3(b) If #3(a) is YES, someone (family, neighbor, relative, or friend) can be counted on to help those children in case an emergency occurs when we are not at home: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____	3(b) If #3(a) is YES, someone (family, neighbor, relative, or friend) can be counted on to help those children in case an emergency occurs when we are not at home: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____

Instructions on other side of this page

Record ID 2346

35146-3449

Springville AL

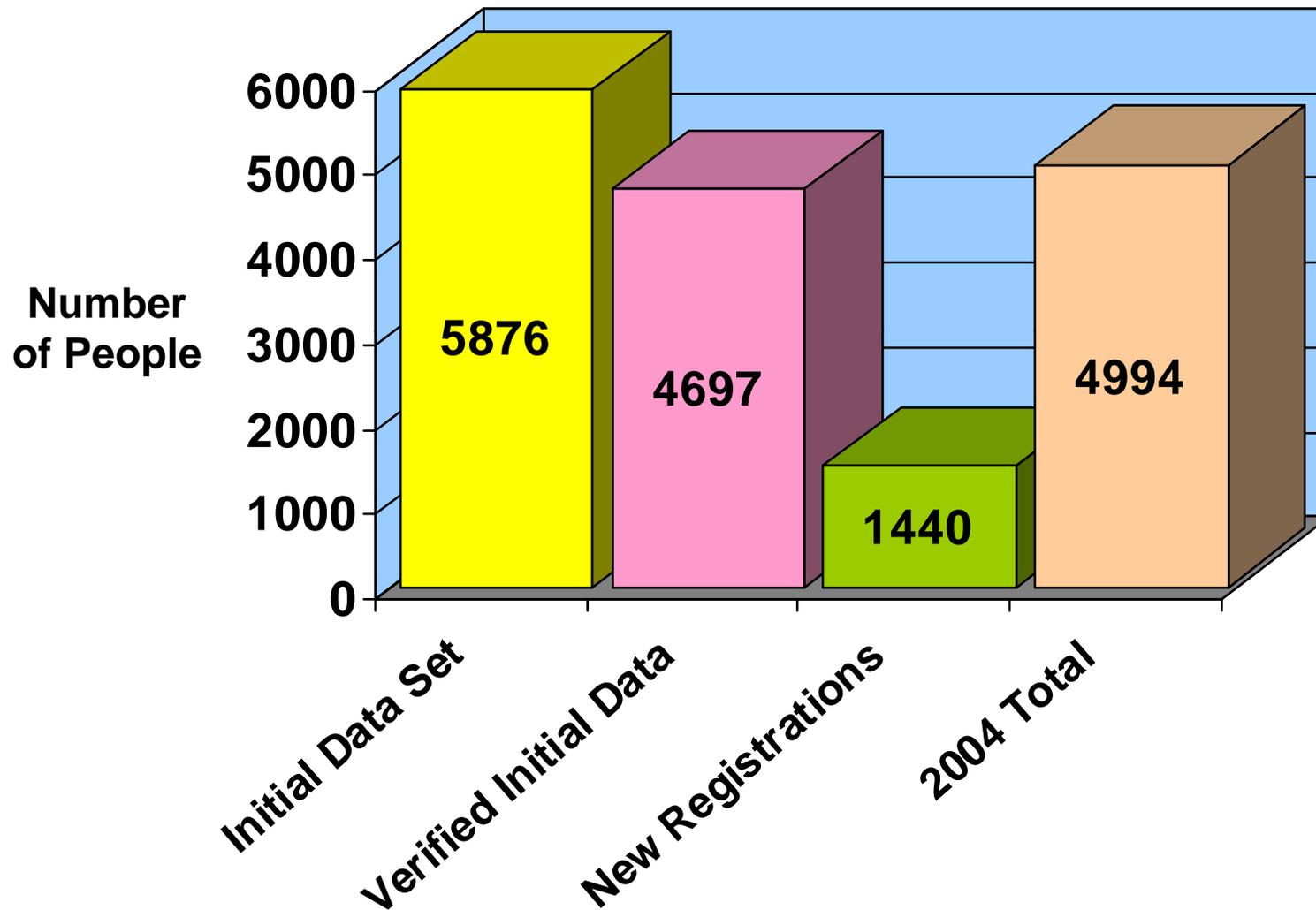


Pioneering Science and Technology

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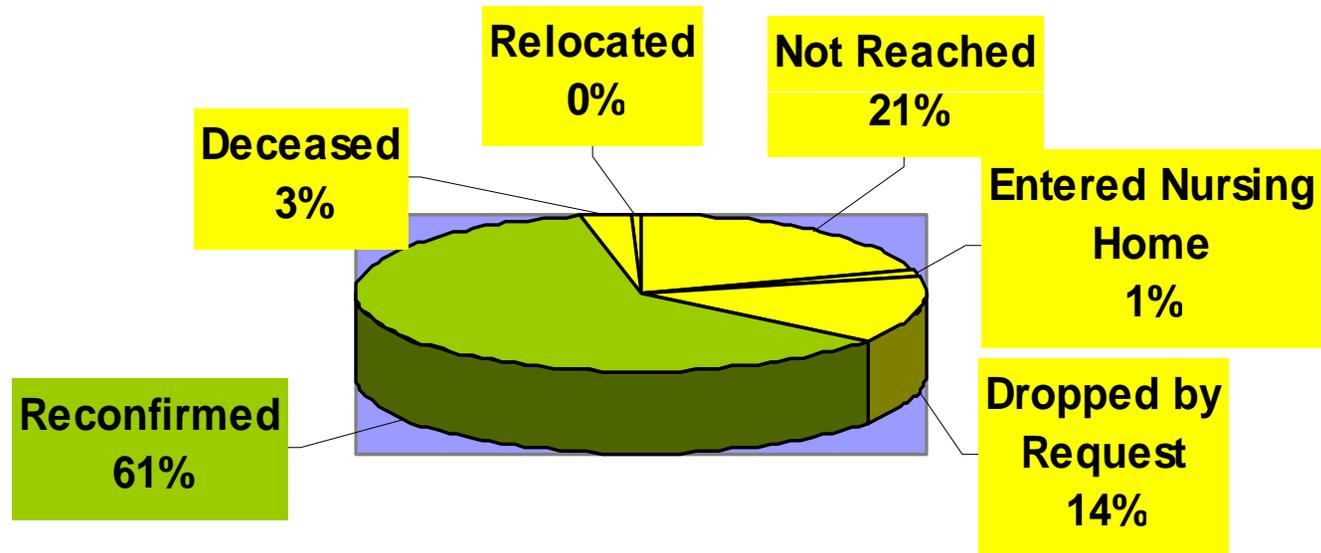


Verification Experience Shows Special-Needs Data Perishability

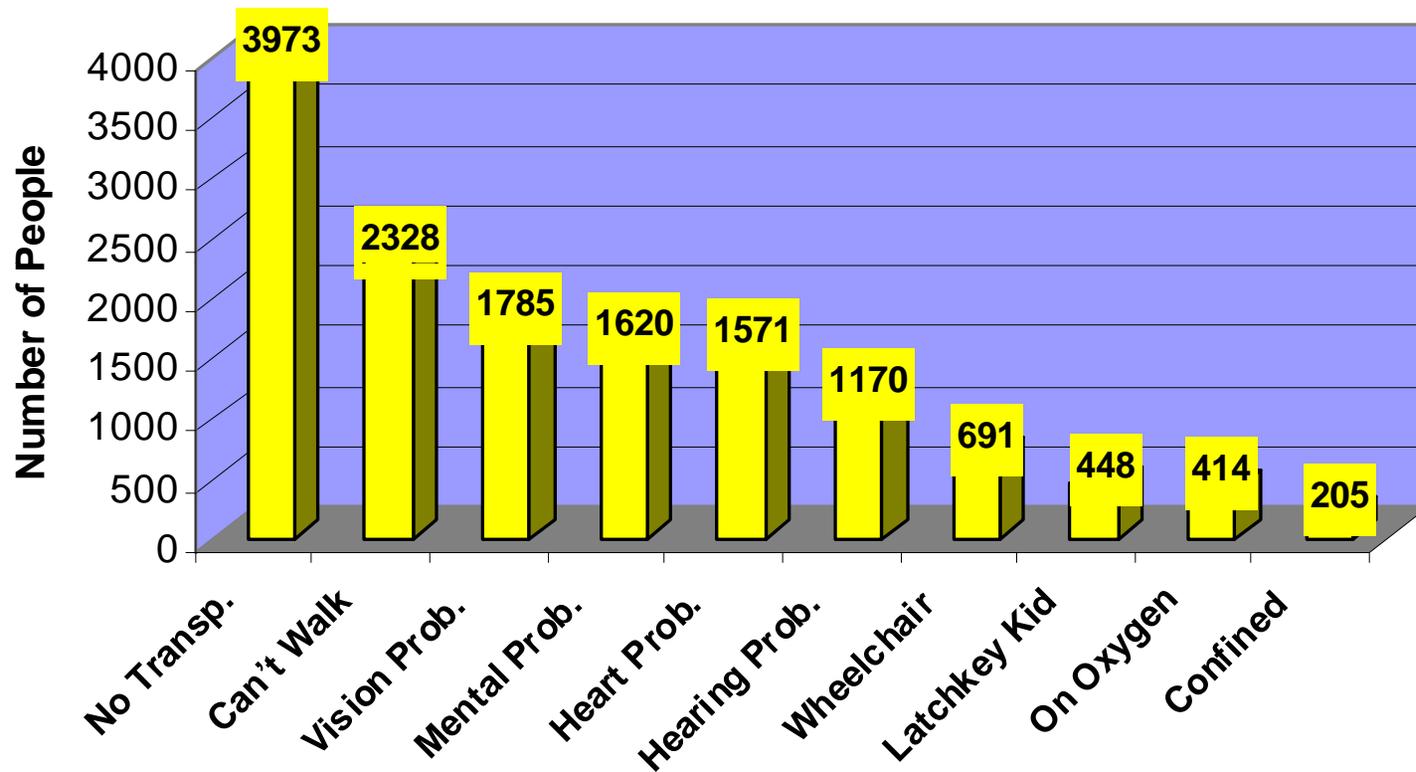


What a Difference a Year Makes. . . .

Verification Process Results from 2003 to 2004



Range of Reported Disabilities is Daunting



Persons with Special Needs Offered Adapted Protective Equipment and Services

Equipment or Service	Inner IRZ	Outer IRZ	PAZ
Protective hood	X		
Caulking/sealing/structural modifications	X		
Portable room air cleaner with/without remote switch	X	X	
Tone alert radio with/without strobe or vibrating unit	X	X	X
Shelter-in-place kit	X	X	X

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Protective Equipment Supports Sheltering



Protective Hoods

Protect against inhalation of chemical agents stored at Anniston Army Depot.



Shelter-in-Place Kits

Create a shelter room in your home.



Portable Room Air Cleaners

Filter chemical agents stored at Anniston Army Depot from your shelter room.



Achieved Greater Distribution to Persons with Special Needs than to the General Population

General Population:

- **50% picked up their equipment**

Persons with Special Needs:

- **50% picked up their equipment**
- **30% accepted an offer to have their equipment delivered**

Sustainment in Alabama

Easy empathetic contact:

- **Local, toll-free, and TDD call-in phones specifically for persons with special needs.**
- **Continuous contact with persons with special needs by phone, mail, and media.**

Continual data update on persons with special needs:

- **Saturation and verification mailings.**
- **Targeted distribution and referrals.**

Heightened community support system:

- **Presentations to community organizations.**
- **Persons with special needs are requested to flag their needs to families, friends, neighbors, social networks, and community-based service organizations and agencies.**

Sustainment Through Caregiver Initiative

- **Researchers report that visual reminders and verbal reinforcement are key to maintaining self-sufficiency.**
- **Caregiver/other helper training in emergency preparedness for those who come into contact with persons with special needs.**
- **Caregivers/other helpers training to assist persons with special needs to prepare for emergencies by:**
 - Creating safety plans and preparing emergency kits, and
 - Assisting persons with special needs to take protective actions.
- **Caregiver training has the ability to educate a far greater audience.**



Key Points

- **Multiple data collection methods required.**
- **Data is perishable and situations change.**
- **Planning for special-needs population needing assistance is a difficult challenge, especially for those with extreme needs.**
- **Community support is essential.**
- **Easy empathetic contact improves communication.**
- **Adaptations are necessary.**
- **Keep it simple.**