



# FIRST RESPONDER

## DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

## General Resources

## Additional Web Resources for First Responders

### [North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities](#)

NDCPD is North Dakota's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). There are over 67 UCEDDs in the US. Staff at NDCPD provide training, technical assistance, service, research and information to people with disabilities, their family members, community agencies and state agencies. At NDCPD, it is our mission to "provide service, education, and research which empowers communities to welcome, value, and support the well-being and quality of life for people of all ages and abilities." Developmental Disabilities Services - North Dakota State Government

### [North Dakota School for the Deaf/Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

We would like to offer a 2 HOUR, ND POST BOARD approved (2 credits), training to all law enforcement departments (police, 911, jail, Sheriff, first responders, & Highway Patrol).

In two short hours, we provide a comprehensive overview of hearing loss and the implications for law enforcement, the ADA- how to get into, and remain in compliance with the law, and how to handle common situations involving individuals with a hearing loss. We will make recommendations on remote interpreting services, technological equipment, and we will provide each officer who takes our training with our Quick Communications Visor Card. If you are interested in scheduling our FREE 2- hour training, entitled Law Enforcement and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, or if you would like more information, please contact Pam Smith, Program Coordinator, Adult Outreach, North Dakota School for the Deaf/ Resource Center at (701)665-4401, or at [pam.smith@k12.nd.us](mailto:pam.smith@k12.nd.us)

### [North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities- NDSCDD](#)

The Council is made up of twenty members appointed by the Governor. Sixty percent of the members are persons with disabilities, or parents, guardians, or immediate relatives of a person with DD. The Council also includes state agency representation along with members from North Dakota's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Protection and Advocacy Project and community DD service providers.

### [North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project](#)

The Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) advocates for the legal rights of North Dakotans with disabilities. Please take some time to explore this website and learn more about P&A and the rights of people with disabilities.

## [National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#)

ACDD is the national association for the 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities (DD Councils) across the United States and its territories. The DD Councils receive federal funding to support programs that promote self-determination, integration and inclusion for all people in the United States with developmental disabilities.

## [Interagency Program for Assistive Technology](#)

North Dakota Assistive (formerly IPAT) is a non-profit organization that strives to bring [assistive technology](#) devices and services into the lives of North Dakotans and Minnesotans of all ages who need it. Our goal is to help bridge the gap between ability and disability using assistive technology

## [North Dakota Disability Training for First Responders 1-hour Online Training](#)

This training, we provide information and best practices to ensure the safety of people with disabilities and EMS, Firefighters, Law Enforcement, and other Allied Health Professionals. The training provides an overview of different disability types and accommodations that may be necessary, as well as an overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as it relates to first responders. This training is ND POST BOARD approved (1 credits), training to all law enforcement departments (police, 911, jail, Sheriff, first responders, & Highway Patrol). Please visit <http://www.ndcpd.org/projects.html> to start this training.

## [North Dakota Peace Officers Association Conference](#)

The main objective of this group was to improve communications between the various officials in different counties. Another objective, much as it is today, was to become better acquainted with other people in the Criminal Justice System.

## [Mobile Tips for First Responders from Texas A&M](#)

Mobile TIPS is formatted specifically for use on mobile devices and it provides practical tips for First Responders to help them better serve people with disabilities or other special needs. Mobile TIPS covers mobility impairments, cognitive disabilities, autism, blindness, deaf/hard of hearing, seniors, childbearing women and more.

## [Niagara University's First Responders Disability Awareness Training \(FR-DAT.com\)](#)

Niagara University offers an excellent on-line resource with information for first responders on disability awareness.

## [Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities, Resource Directory for Service Providers](#)

The National Center for Victims of Crime provides a list of curricula and training programs for first responders on serving people with disabilities who have been victims of crime.

## Disability Protection and Advocacy

### [Bureau of Justice Statistics: Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2007](#)

This website presents the first findings about nonfatal violent and property crime experienced by persons with disabilities, based on the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

## Federal Laws that Protect Disability Rights

### [ADA.gov](#)

This website provides information and technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It includes a full text version of the ADA. Title II: State and Local Government Activities and Title III: Public Accommodations are most applicable to first responders.

### [Commonly Asked Questions about the ADA and Law Enforcement](#)

Issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, this document offers common sense suggestions to assist law enforcement agencies in complying with the ADA. Topics include transportation, effective communication, architectural access, and modifications of policies, practices, and procedures that may be necessary.

### [A Guide to Disability Rights Laws](#)

Issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, this guide provides an overview of Federal civil rights laws that ensure equal opportunity for people with disabilities, including the ADA. Contact information for agencies and organizations that can provide more information about how these laws are also provided.

### [Service Animals](#)

Issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, this document provides the ADA's 2010 Revised Requirements regarding service animals.

## Nationwide Children's Hospital

### [Children with Special Health Care Needs EMS Notification Program](#)

Children with special health care needs require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. In an emergency, many of these children are cared for by local emergency departments and EMS agencies that are not familiar with their special needs. In an effort to provide the best possible care for children and families with special needs, Nationwide Children's Hospital has developed an outreach program specifically for EMS providers. This website provides more information about this valuable program, of which all EMS providers should be aware.

### Service Animals

### [EMS and Service Dogs: Quick reference guide to providing safe and efficient care to people traveling with service dogs \(PDF\)](#)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires hospitals and first responders to modify their practices as necessary to ensure that service dog users are provided with the same assistance as their peers. This quick reference guide can help EMS providers to be prepared to safely transport service dogs alongside their handlers.

## [Serving Service Animal Teams](#)

This is a 30 minute video produced by the Ohio Trauma Committee Functional Needs Workgroup that provides guidance on how first responders can best serve service animal teams. The video defines service animals, discusses how to identify service animals and where they are allowed to go, and provides best practices for safety and minimal stress. This video also shows a great demonstration of how to load a service animals with its handler into an ambulance.

## Cognitive Impairments

Dementia and Aging

### [The Alzheimer's Association](#)

If you encounter a person with dementia, the Alzheimer's Association can offer assistance. You can locate your local chapter at this site and contact them with any questions that you may have. A 24/7 national Helpline is also available: 1-800-272-3900

### [MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return](#)

MedicAlert + Safe Return is a 24-hour nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia who wander or have a medical emergency. As a first responder, if you have encountered a person with dementia who you suspect may be lost, call the 24-hour emergency response line (1.800.625.3780) to report it. MedicAlert + Safe Return may be able to provide critical medical information and help in reuniting the person who wandered with the caregiver or a family member.

Developmental Disabilities

### [Autism Society: Tips for First Responders](#)

The Autism Society is a nationwide grassroots organization that exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. This page provides a list of behaviors that people with autism may have and tips for first responders on how to respond. Check out each of the PDFs below for more in depth information on working with people with autism.

### [Autism Information for Law Enforcement and other First Responders \(PDF\)](#)

### [Autism Information for Paramedics and Emergency Room Staff \(PDF\)](#)

### [Autism and First Responders: Seeing Beyond the Smoke](#)

The Willow Grove Volunteer Fire Company, Upper Moreland Police and Horsham Fire Company EMS collaborated with The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University to produce *Autism and First Responders: Seeing Beyond the Smoke*. The 20-minute video features a house fire scenario with suggestions on how to recognize and manage challenges that people with autism may present, along with interviews with Willow Grove Fire Chief Brian Focht, fire fighters Tom Winterberg, Marc Medori, family members and children with autism. Montgomery County Commissioners Chairman Josh Shapiro provides introductory remarks. This video was funded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council

## [Resources from JFK Partners for First Responders that Encourage Optimal Interactions with People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

This site includes a 1 hour on-line course for EMTs, police, and firefighters that introduces some potential challenges of working with someone with a developmental disability and provides tools to help address these challenges. A training for EMTs that focuses on interactions with people with autism is also provided.

Mental Health

### [Crisis Intervention Teams \(CIT\)](#)

NAMI provides information on the CIT program, fostering community engagement regarding mental illness, and CIT for youth. A link to step by step instructions on how to start a CIT program in your community is also provided.

### **Resources from De-Escalating Mental Health Crisis Training:**

#### [10 Rules for Crisis intervention \(PDF\)](#)

#### [CIT Framework \(PDF\)](#)

#### [CIT Quick Reference Guide \(PDF\)](#)

#### [Lethality Assessment to Determine Suicide Intent \(PDF\)](#)

#### [Loss Checklists \(PDF\)](#)

#### [NAMI CIT Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

### [North Dakota Suicide Prevention Program](#)

The Suicide Prevention Program proudly partners with multisector organizations to provide a comprehensive systems approach to suicide prevention. This effort works to educate ND communities on the warning signs and symptoms of suicide and how to get help for people who may be suicidal.

### [How Many Americans Experienced Mental Illness in the Past Year?](#)

This article summarizes the findings of the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The survey found that 19.9% of adults had mental illness in the past year at the time of the survey. A link to the full NSH DUH report is provided.

## Communication Barriers

### Interpretation Services

Sign Language interpretation services are generally provided for a fee by private agencies or individuals, and can also be accessed via video phone. You may request a list of accredited interpretation agencies in your area from the [Better Business Bureau](#) or contact one of the agencies listed below.

Portable or telephone interpreter services are also available. Some resources providing interpreter services include [Trusted Interpreters](#) and [LanguageLine Solutions](#)

### [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf \(RID\)](#)

RID is a national membership organization for sign language interpreters. You can search their online member directory for local interpreters or e-mail [info@rid.org](mailto:info@rid.org) for more information on locating a certified interpreter.

[Video Training with Tips for Responding to Emergencies involving Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf/blind people](#) This 10 minute video produced by the Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) provides tips for first responders on responding to emergencies involving deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf/blind individuals.

## Mobility Impairments

Obesity

[Yale Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity](#)

The Yale Rudd Center works to improve the world's diet, prevent obesity, and reduce weight stigma. This [worksheet](#) from the Yale Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity is designed to help healthcare providers recognize societal and personal bias against overweight people, and can serve as a useful self-evaluation tool for first responders.

## Transportation and Evacuation

**ODPS EMS: State Board of Emergency Medical, First and Transportation Services**

Ambulettes are specially modified vehicles that can transport people who use wheelchairs. Information and rules regarding wheelchair accessible ambulettes can be found on the ODPS EMS website. Do a web search to find ambulette providers in your area, or check with the Better Businesses Bureau.

[Orientation Manual for First Responders on the Evacuation of People with Disabilities](#)

FEMA produced this orientation manual to ensure that first responders to learn how best to perform a rescue using equipment and procedures that facilitate safe evacuation for any person with a disability. The manual provides an overview of disability types, tips, and possible accommodations that may be needed. Carry techniques and evacuation devices that are appropriate for use with people who have physical disabilities or use wheel chairs are also provided.

## [Rob's Rescue](#)

The mission of Rob's Rescue is: to enhance the effectiveness, safety, and sensitivity of the emergency response process for people with special emergency needs and individuals who are morbidly obese through specialized training, patient information, and equipment. Rob's Rescue staff is available for technical assistance and also offer presentations that can count for CEU credit.

