

## Examples of Injects Specific to Potential Needs of Older Adults in Emergencies

*for use in table tops and other training exercises*

### **Evacuation and Sheltering Scenario**

During table top and real time exercises, issues facing older adults can be practiced during all phases of an event. The following scenarios can be inserted into an exercise to help planners and responders understand older adult needs during an emergency, and how to better prepare to meet those needs. Further information about the older adult population can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency>.

**Evacuating and transporting** vulnerable older adults in emergencies can be challenging for emergency managers and responders. Many older adults have impaired mobility, diminished sensory awareness, multiple chronic conditions, and social and economic limitations – all of which can make evacuation and sheltering particularly difficult for this population.

- A mandatory evacuation order has been issued. A minister from a local church has called the local health department with a request for evacuation assistance for several older church members who live throughout the county. Many of these older adults do not have cars to evacuate themselves, and some are unwilling to leave their pets behind.
- A shelter operator is requesting assistance from the local emergency management office in handling vulnerable older adults in shelters. The shelter operator is reporting that many older adults have been dropped off at shelters without caregivers, and don't have enough medication with them to last during the storm. Also many older adults are unable to manage their own activities of daily living such as toileting, and the shelter operators do not have enough trained staff to assist. There are a handful of older adults who seem disoriented in the shelter and are not able to adequately care for themselves.
- Flooding has washed out many roads in the county making it impossible for some older residents to leave the shelter and return home. News is spreading that entire communities have been destroyed and many older adults fear their homes are included, but they have no way of knowing if their homes are affected. Shelter operators are concerned about discharging older adults when they may not have a home to return to. Many other older adults seemed to have declined significantly during their stay in the shelter and are concerned about returning home without some support and help. Shelter operators have called the local public health department for assistance in transitioning older adults back into the community.

- Many residents are returning home. The local Area Agency on Aging has called the County emergency management office for assistance. Many older adults' homes have been severely damaged and are in need of repair. Older adults are having difficulty navigating the paperwork necessary to receive financial aid for home repairs. Many others are also being targeted by persons posing as contractors. Several older adults have already paid these people and no work has been done on their homes.