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IEHA Program Lesson Submission

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Topic Title:	Inclusive Emergency Preparedness
Topic Description: (Information should be researched, educational, approved for use (if you are not the author, seek approval from materials author), and presented in a format that would allow an individual to read, study, and teach to other peers. All copyright issues should be resolved before submission.)	Inclusive emergency preparedness emphasizes the importance of creating emergency plans that address the specific needs of individuals with disabilities. This approach ensures safety and accessibility for all during natural disasters, man-made disasters, or personal challenges.
Short Goal/Objective Statement for Lesson:	Equip individuals with the knowledge and tools to create inclusive emergency plans, ensuring preparedness and safety for individuals with disabilities.

Inclusive Emergency Preparedness: Ensuring Safety for Individuals with Disabilities

Why Do We Prepare?

Being adequately prepared for disasters and emergencies can reduce the impact and limit suffering and loss due to:

1. Natural Disasters
2. Man-caused Disasters
3. Personal or Family Challenges

Understanding Disabilities in Emergencies

A disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. During emergencies, challenges or limitations in these activities can impact response and recovery.

Challenges for Individuals with Disabilities During Emergencies

- Slow response
- Limited emergency resources and accessibility
- Loss of essential life support services
- Reluctance to seek assistance
- Few sources for replacement assistive technology
- Limited planning and awareness

Stages of Emergency Management

1. Prevention: Safety measures to prevent the event.
2. Preparedness: Planning and training.
3. Mitigation: Reducing the impact after an event has occurred.
4. Response: Immediate actions during the event.
5. Recovery: Long-term actions to restore normalcy.

Inclusive Emergency Planning Steps

1. Start simple and early.
2. Create a family emergency plan
3. Gather essential supplies and maintain a “Go-Bag”
4. Make plans accessible and ensure communications with responders

Preparing for Individuals with Disabilities

- Stock medical supplies and assistive technology.
- Communicate needs with neighbors and emergency responders.
- Include mobility aids, extra batteries, and maintenance tools.

Creating a Family Emergency Plan

An effective family emergency plan should include:

- Emergency meeting locations
- Contact information
- Health and disability considerations
- Inventory of emergency resources
- Special considerations and diagrams of home layout.

Practice and Update Your Plan

1. Simulate emergency scenarios.
2. Update plans and supplies regularly.
3. Engage family members and practice evacuation and response steps.

Resources

- Indiana-Purdue Rural Emergency Preparedness (INPREPared)
 - www.purdue.edu/engineering/ABE/INPREPared/inclusive-prep
- Purdue Extension
 - www.extension.purdue.edu
- National AgrAbility Project
 - www.agrability.org
- Extension Disaster Education Network
 - www.extensiondisaster.net
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Ready.gov
 - www.ready.gov