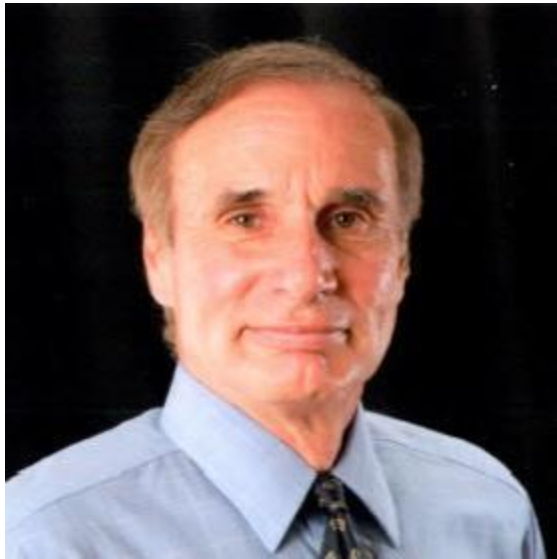




About the Host/Presenter:



John K. Romano (he/him) – Founder and Executive Director at Disaster Central, a Missoula-based 501(C)(3) organization. With over a decade of experience as a disaster resilience and recovery specialist, John has directly aided over 6,000 disaster survivors nationwide. He's contributed to the World Institute on Disabilities (WID) strategic planning panel and is a recognized expert in state-of-the-art public safety, government alerting systems, as well as community disaster preparedness.

Go to: <https://disastercentral.org>

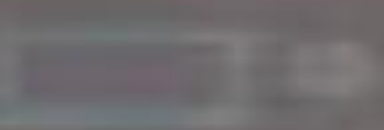
Or <https://confluence.disastercentral.org>



Assistive Technology (AT) in Disaster Risk Reduction

Mainstreaming Community Inclusion

(Done with the help of assistive mobile technology)



These windows, project leader Dr. Michaela Villanueva, discuss the key features of the Phoenix-Central Environmental Justice process tool and framework and software development from field testing this tool together with windows and their clients.



Welcome to Today's Topics:

- What is the state of assistive tech now?
- How can assistive tech (AT) aid in community inclusion?
- What can inclusion look like for vulnerable populations?
- Introducing the B-Ready App



Assistive Technology (AT) - An Umbrella Term

- Not just wheelchairs or ramps, communication boards, text-to-speech communication devices, AAC
- Next-level (AT) is also smartphones, mobile communications, software, and AI (enhanced captioning)
- All designed to help people live more independently and increase their safety during stress events



Is Increased Community Disaster Inclusion Possible with Technology?

- Yes, although tech must remain affordable and accessible
- It should also include people with disabilities in the design and development of this technology
- Local & State governments could/should also help cover costs



Emergency Registries:

Two different frameworks of thinking...

- Emergency Managers** - See them as planning tools
- Individuals** - See them as personal safety tools
- Misunderstanding these fundamental approaches leads to false hope



Preparedness Myths

-“If I register with an Emergency Registry, someone is certain to rescue me.”

✘ False!

- Emergency Registries help emergency managers, not individuals
- Individuals must still make their **own** plan and **share** that plan with other support individuals/organizations in the community



What is the B-Ready App?

- An emergency action plan in your pocket!
- Simple, useful, provides guided setup of a household plan –
Provides secure document storage (HIPAA/PII compliant)
- Sends fully encrypted out-going alerts of your completed plan

Log in with your email address and password
to access your account.

Email address

Enter your email address

Password

Enter your password

Sign In



Smartphones Are Lifelines

- They can serve as **accessible alerts and warnings** as well as provide geo-locator functions for first responders.
- The AI helps with speech and visual info (when confronted with emergencies and household hazards)
- They are all easy-to-use tools that can save lives



Systemic Barriers to Community Inclusion Today

- Lack of funding, planning, and high-tech commitment to future innovation(s) in this area
- Disability rights often overlooked
- FEMA's future role is uncertain



What Must Change

- Involve people with disabilities (with lived-experience) from the start
- Design systems that include everyone
- Keep assistive tech high-quality and affordable



Disaster/Emergency Realities for People with Disabilities

- Prone to higher risk of injury and/or death during disasters
- More dependence on health services
- Harder time evacuating or getting help



The Strategic Use of Inclusive Digital Policies

- Smartphones = essential tools
- Teach people how to leverage this technology for their personal safety (during emergencies and disasters)
- Design these new tools with disabled users being **involved**, not **for** them



A New Approach

- Let's STOP admiring the problem—and find out how to solve it
- Let's test **real** solutions with **real** people (and include those with lived-experience)
- Do a study and generate outcome data and later build on what works (let's build a story for future funding)



Tech Only Is Never a Silver Bullet

- Tech is only one piece of the puzzle
- 70% of first responders are family/friends during major disasters
- Emergency Management planning Inclusion + tech = stronger more inclusive communities



Newsflash Everyone: It's a **PARTICIPATIVE Sport**

- The community needs to USE and DEPLOY these tools
- This tech must be “adopted” to be effective and improved upon
- Everyone plays a part



Did you know that...70% of first responders in large scale disasters are family and friends?



That Means Whole Community Inclusion (i.e. CMIST)

- Assistive tech + inclusive emergency planning
- Next-gen tools + local partnerships
- We all benefit when no one is left behind



Introducing: The B-Ready App

- Mobile tech solution for **PERSONAL** preparedness
- Helps the user build a personal/household plan, step-by-step
- Matches community resources to the user's customized needs



Why Does B-Ready Work So Well? (It's User-Generated Information)

- Allows easy monthly log-ins to keep up-to-date the base-line emergency plan (5–15 minutes a month)
- Secure encrypted cloud storage for vital info
- Built for all abilities and needs



A Personal Emergency Plan In Your Pocket (B-Ready)

- Collects health, financial, caretaker, and insurance info
- Deploys community members and support personnel to fit the user's customized emergency action plan (offering greater situational awareness)
- Helps with fast recovery
- Works for households and small businesses



What B-Ready Helps You Do...

- Make and later **COMMUNICATE** a real plan to others
- Stay informed
- Build a go-kit
- Most importantly...It gets **YOU** involved in your own **CUSTOMIZED** preparedness plan!



REMINDER: Preparedness Is A Wide-Ranging Discussion....

It can be unique to **anyone** and be specific to any **region**...Our guidance is designed to **be less formulaic** in nature, it's **broad-based** and it allows you and/or your household to build it out (and fully customize it) with our guidance, support, and tools (B-Ready App).



Who Are the Typical B-Ready App Users?

- Those with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities
- Chronic conditions or injuries
- Limited English proficiency
- Older adults and children
- Low income, homeless and/or transportation disadvantaged (i.e., those dependent on public transit)
- Pregnant women



Who The B-Ready App Is Not For...

- People who refuse to plan
- People who won't learn basic tech
- People who think “winging it” works



Good News!

- You can get ready—without stress (5-15 mins a month)
- Easy to use, fast, and built for everyone
- Let's stop admiring the problem and start acting



Final Message - Main Goal:

Create emergency systems that are:

- Inclusive
- Tech-enabled
- Centered on the voices/needs of people with disabilities