

Apex CERT's mission is to serve and safeguard our community through efficient and effective volunteer service, which helps protect life and property, ensuring the greatest good for the greatest number.



amazonsmile

Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and choose Apex CERT as the non-profit you want to support!

OCTOBER Birthdays



Theresa DiMaria

Shannon Benedetto

Evan Caulfield

Andrew Hotchkiss

Cyndy Levtzow

Hillary Liles

Tina Owen

Neal Smith

Linda Atack

David Musick

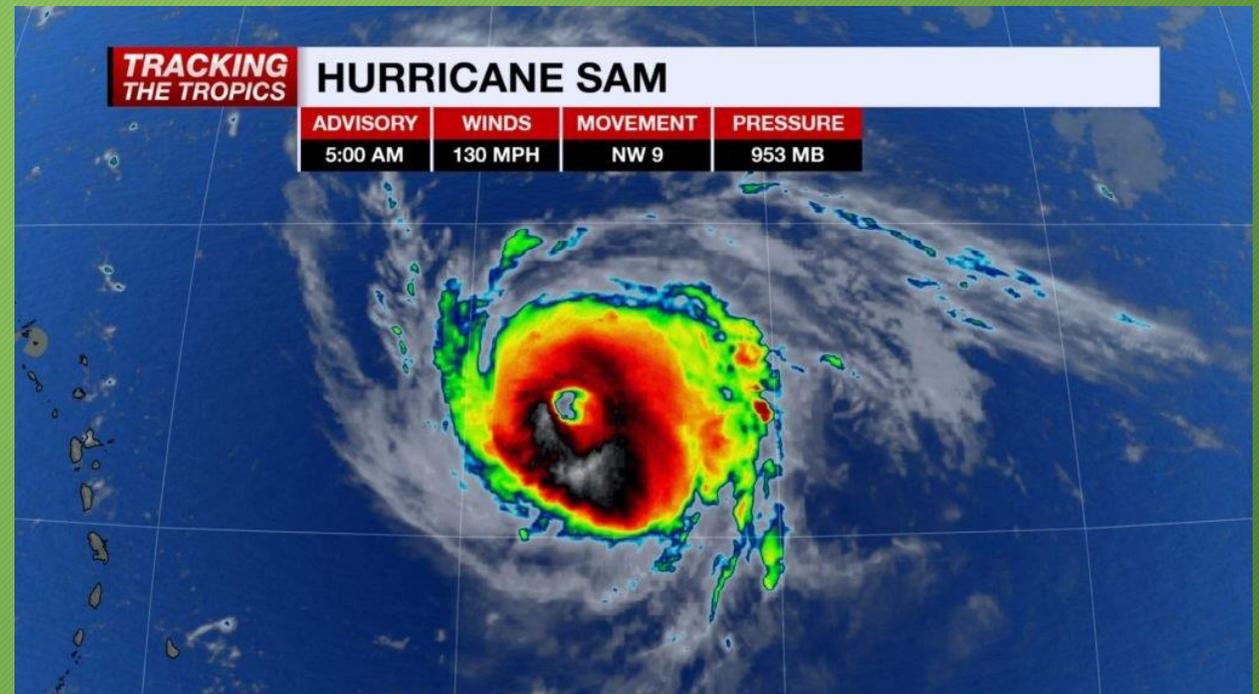
SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

September 2

Apex CERT Monthly Meeting

Hurricane Awareness

46 people attended



Tips for Interacting with People with Disabilities

Adapted from publication
by the same name by
June Isaacson Kailes.

True or False?

- There is an 80% chance that you will experience a temporary or permanent disability at some point in your life.
- Do not assume that a person with a disability needs assistance. Ask before acting.
- Hanging on to a person's wheelchair communicates interest and friendliness.
- When communicating with people who have speech disabilities, you should always try to finish their sentences for them.
- If a person who is deaf is using an interpreter, always speak directly to the interpreter.
- When offering assistance to a person who is blind, offer to read written information like menus, etc., for them.

Who are People with Disabilities and Other Activity Limitations?

30% of people living in the US experience some difficulty with “basic” movement, or cognitive, sensory, or emotional limitations



One Size Doesn't Fit All



There are no “the disabled” and there is no “one size fits all.”



People with disabilities have the same range of personality traits, interests, and desires as everyone else.



People with disabilities are a part of the world's diversity

Everyone is different

Two individuals with the same type of functional limitations can have very different abilities and needs.



For example, not all blind people are completely without some vision, read Braille, or use white canes.

Defining Disability Broadly

Reduced Ability or Inability to See	Reduced Ability or Inability to Read	Reduced Ability or Inability to Walk	Reduced Ability or Inability to Speak
Reduced Ability or Inability to Hear	Reduced Ability or Inability to Learn	Reduced Ability or Inability to Understand or Remember	Reduced Ability or Inability to Reach or Manipulate Controls
Heart Disease	Emotional / Psychiatric Conditions	Arthritis	Significant Allergies

The “Haves” vs. The “Have-Nots”

Do not view disability as a “you have” or “you don’t have” a disability.

Activity limitations and abilities range in severity and duration (partial to total, temporary to permanent) and affect almost everyone at some point in their lives.



Defining Disability Broadly



Using a broad definition shows intent to include a broad range of people and leave no one behind.



People with Disabilities and Activity Limitations Are Part of Every Segment of the Population



Most people with disabilities and activity limitations are integrated into and are actively involved in all parts of our society.

Incorporation Into Daily Activities

Incorporate people with disabilities and activity limitations into the fabric and the culture of programs and services, so that the issues are not viewed as “special,” “sidebar,” or “in addition to,” but part of the daily radar screen of business as usual.

General Tips

Focus on the person, not the disability.

Offer people with a disability the same dignity, consideration, respect, and rights you expect for yourself.



General Tips

If you don't know what to do, allow the person to help put you at ease.

Do not be afraid to make a mistake. Relax.



General Tips



Do not patronize people by patting them on the head or shoulder.

Treat adults as adults. Address people with disabilities by their first names only when extending the same familiarity to all others present.

General Tips

Do not assume that a person with a disability needs assistance. Ask before acting.

If the person with a disability is with a friend or family member, look at and speak directly to the person with the disability rather than to or through the other person.



General Tips



Do not assume that a person with a disability is more fragile than others. These feelings may make you reluctant to ask certain questions that should be asked.

If service counters are too high for some users, such as people of short stature and people using wheelchairs, step around counters to provide service. Keep a clipboard or other portable writing surface handy for people unable to reach the counter when signing documents.

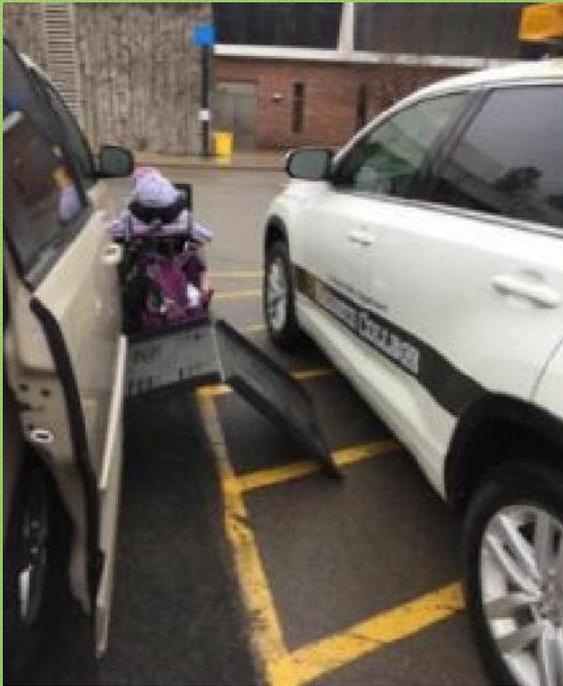
General Tips

Know the location of accessible routes including parking spaces, rest rooms, drinking fountains, dressing rooms, and telephones.

Understanding disability access issues and responding accurately, quickly, and respectfully to requests for information, directions, or assistance conveys genuine welcome.



General Tips



Watch for and remove these common barriers:

- Vehicles blocking ramps
- Housekeeping and cleaning carts blocking hallways and restrooms
- Potted plants, benches, ashtrays, trash cans, and other items blocking access to ramps, railings, and elevator call buttons
- Parking personnel using an accessible parking space as waiting areas
- Snow and ice on walkways, ramps, and parking areas

Language Issues

Disability-specific language should be precise, objective, and neutral in order to avoid reinforcing negative values, biases, and stereotypes.

Avoid referring to people by their disability, i.e., “an epileptic.” A person is not a condition. Rather, they are “people with epilepsy” or “people with disabilities.”



Language Issues



People are not “bound” or “confined” to wheelchairs. Wheelchairs are used to increase mobility and enhance freedom. It is more accurate to say “wheelchair user” or “person who uses a wheelchair.”

Language Issues

It is not necessary to avoid these expressions:

- When around people who are blind:
 - “Did you see that?”
 - “See you later.”
- When around people who are deaf:
 - “Did you hear about John?”
- When around people who use wheelchairs:
 - “Let’s walk to the store.”
 - “Run over to the dorm to pick it up.”



Preferred Terms

	Acceptable Neutral*	Unacceptable Offensive
	A person who has had a disability since birth A congenital disability	Birth defect

*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Preferred Terms

Acceptable Neutral*	Unacceptable Offensive
A person who uses a wheelchair A wheelchair user	Confined to a wheelchair Wheelchair bound

*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Preferred Terms



*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Preferred Terms

	Acceptable Neutral*	Unacceptable Offensive
	<p>A person who has a speech disability</p> <p>A person who is hard of hearing</p> <p>A person who is deaf</p>	<p>Dumb, deaf mute, dummy (implies an intellectual disability occurs with a hearing loss or speech disability)</p>

*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Preferred Terms

+	Acceptable Neutral*	Unacceptable Offensive
	<p>He has a mental illness</p> <p>He has an emotional disability</p> <p>He has a psychiatric disability</p>	<p>He is chronically mentally ill, a nut, crazy, idiot, imbecile, moron</p>

*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Preferred Terms

	Acceptable Neutral*	Unacceptable Offensive
	A person who has a developmental disability or intellectual disability	Retard, retardate, mentally retarded, feeble-minded, idiot

*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Preferred Terms



*Always subject to change and continuing debate

Practical Usage

Given what we've discussed here, how will you apply this knowledge as a CERT volunteer?

DIS-ability? Or DIFFERENT ability?

