**Send questions to****passitoncenter@gatfl.gatech.edu**

[**www.passitoncenter.org**](http://www.passitoncenter.org/)

**Resources:**[**http://pioc.gatech.edu/wiki/Hurricane\_Harvey\_2017**](http://pioc.gatech.edu/wiki/Hurricane_Harvey_2017)

**AT/DME Disaster Response Call with PiDS, Portlight and Pass It On Center**

**Sept. 4, 2017, 5:00 pm EDT**

**Calls will continue at this number daily at 4 PM CT/ 5 PM EDT:**

641-715-3580**; PIN: 996329#**.

**Paul Timmons, Weather Report**

Jeff Masters, meteorologist, from Weather Underground, thinks none of the likely scenarios are good news. Everyone needs to be mindful that the Southeast is likely to be hit by Irma in the next week.  Carolyn has invited all of the PIOC reuse partners in the Virgin Islands and the Southeast to listen to the call and get prepared for response.

**FEMA - Stephanie Fell**

Registration for disaster assistance: 558,000 households completed;

177K survivors approved for $142 million in disaster assistance, of which $51 million in housing assistance,and over $91 million is personal needs assistance. 32 counties approved for individual assistance; 3 approved for critical needs assistance. Individual must state that they have critical needs: immediately need food or water, etc. At that point, they will be provided immediate $500 by preferred form of payment, which will be deducted from the $33,000 total allowance. Fact sheet went to Marcie and she will distribute.

Disaster recovery centers are locations where survivors can go for more assistance that have representatives from FEMA, Governor, SBA, other volunteer agencies: One open in Edna, TX, and two more to open today in Fayette and Colorado Counties. One in NRG Center. Go online to locate a center near you.

Shelters: 227 open, one in LA. Now have 34K residents in TX/LA shelters.

Transitional shelter assistance (TSA (5-14 days, but can be extended): 225,915 eligible; 48,448 households have applied. When approved, recipients can go to hotels anywhere in the country.

Amy Goldman: In Sandy, people had kits but did not know how to use them. Do people now know how to use the communication access kits? People are being trained to use the kits. Amy pointed out that state programs could probably loan equipment if the FEMA teams run out.

**Carolyn**

People need AT/DME in stages as they go through the recovery cycle. This work group is in it for the long haul.

Shelters are active, and people come and go. Jamie Karam from LATAN reported that many people from TX in LA have moved back to TX. The equipment did not catch up with them in time, so they now need to locate those individuals.

**Pancho**, representing a group of volunteers, reported from Texas on the environment for immigrants in need. There is a climate of fear about approaching the government. They are attempting to reach people in need. Language is a huge challenge: not just Spanish, Urdu, Arabic, Cantonese, etc.

They have some supplies to share, and they are getting requests. They need batteries for five power wheelchairs. They are serving anyone who approaches them.

**John Wilbanks, report on Portlight Portal development**

 We hope to stand up first the capability for organization-to-organization matches of donations and needs. The target date for the initial functionality to go live. That will identify needs, but is designed to permit expansion in the future.

Can some of the portal information be in Spanish? This is a critical need now. Puerto Rico asked earlier today about this. We need to identify a Spanish translator and identify how to do this.

The initial portal is not designed for individuals at the outset. We welcome input from programs that already have a dynamic database and are willing to share it – at least the data design. Please email Carolyn.phillips@gatech.edu.

**AT Reuse Locations Database**

Carolyn encouraged people from groups that are not represented in the Pass It On Centers database of AT/DME reuse locations to go to [www.passitoncenter.org](http://www.passitoncenter.org/) and create a profile in the Locations Database. Look for the map on the right side of the page.

**Tagging Reassigned Equipment for Return**

We are exploring a simple sticker or tag that can accompany a device with information about loan status and where to return when no longer needed. Marcie said that this can be very simple. Emphasize that this is a loan, and how to return or pass it on. Translate into Spanish. It will probably include the PIOC logo to direct them to the Locations Database. PIOC will send out the language and a link to the template in the wiki.

**Volunteers**

We have many people who have volunteered with specialized skills. We don’t want to lose momentum on this, so we want to start placing people with organizations who need assistance. We may need to create a volunteer registry.

If you have a need, please email to Carolyn.phillips@gatech.edu:

- Organization name

- Need

- Specific skills required

- Are ASL or bilingual interpreters needed? What languages?

- Area conditions (e.g., where can volunteers be housed if from out of the area)

Hannah has volunteers waiting for assignments.

Marcie: Opportunities for transportation on fixed-wing airplanes if needed.

**Transportation**

PIOC is working with partners and VOAD to focus on the transportation issue.

**Warehousing**

Partners who volunteered should advise Carolyn when it is allowed to post the warehouse address on the wiki.

**Donation Drives this Saturday**

Trish from Houston: Second Saturday donation drive. There is some concern about security issues. They have been collecting devices and they want to give the devices to those in need. Poncho suggested that they could connect with police to send an officer to cover the facility from 8-5. They could use translators for Asian languages in addition to Spanish.

Angela needs volunteers to help with distribution.

Denise: How was the information about the Second Saturday drive communicated? It was shared through their network of vendors, professional associations, case managers, United Spinal, etc. Could it be shared through the emergency communication system that could get this out on radio, TV, Navigate to Care, etc.?

If you have requests for specific, unusual devices, contact PIOC. It could be vision or other sensory related devices. Peaches Need Feet is a nonprofit that helps children who need items. They want to join the effort and may help. Hannah will email information to Carolyn.

Special request for child with epilepsy who needs a cooling vest and a Hoyer lift. Hannah has a case manager who has purchased cooling vests for clients, and she will put her in touch tomorrow morning. They may have a resource to help her.

Hannah received a question from Latham Springs Baptist Church Camp in Aquilla with a report of 500 special needs adults and children. Marcie asked for the information to follow up.