



Brain Injury Association of Texas

Newsletter

Hurricane Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Jonas Schwartz

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management has developed new resources to help people with disabilities prepare to safely leave evacuation zones during this year's hurricane season, which begins June 1 and lasts through November 30.

The resources include three advisory documents and a pre-registration system for transportation during an emergency.

The documents are:

Your Emergency Evacuation Kit, a checklist of what is required in an emergency kit for special health care needs;

Planning for Emergencies, how-to tips on learning about community resources, creating a support network, and more; and

Preparedness Websites, a list of sites that offer planning and preparedness information for Texans with disabilities.

Pre-registration for transportation assistance during hurricane evacuation is being coordinated by the Texas 2-1-1 Information Referral Network. People with special needs who cannot evacuate by themselves or do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation can call 2-1-1, and the information they provide will be shared with local emergency officials in evacuation zones. Texas evacuation zones include 22 counties: Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Liberty, Matagorda, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria and Willacy.

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Members Services Update: Choose Your Way to Get Involved!

Do you know how to find information about brain injury, where to look? Have you looked at the BIATX website lately? Many new resource sites have been added to assist you in finding the information you need. Calls in to the brain injury hotline seeking assistance are coming in because of referral from members like you. When asked if they have checked the web site for the information, many callers report they were not aware there was a web site.

You can make a difference. Some association members have begun **visitation programs** to hospital neurology units to help newly injured individuals & their families through times of crisis. Do you want to help? We will help train you & provide resources. You invest the

time!

Advocacy: Our effectiveness depends on having resources available. If funding is cut, resources for brain injured families will be hard to replace. Check the **public policy web page** and sign up for the E-mail notices. Stay informed! Once you know how you feel about an issue, use our web site to contact your district legislators and advocate for persons with brain injury. Let them know you care & you vote on the issues you care about.

Military families of Afghanistan & Iraq veterans need your support. The war is producing more head injured survivors than any previous war. Soldiers & civilian war workers are surviving injuries that caused death in the past

due to improved medical care & rapid onset of that care. As these families return to their home communities the military injured will be able to receive some care from the military hospitals. Reintegration into previous jobs or retraining will require family and home town community support. Rehabilitation programs for civilian returnees will be needed. Their family members will need support in adjusting to personality changes that result from injuries.

Any ideas or needs you want the BIATX community to research & address please send a message to us or to Bob Johnson, Member Services Chair, at Commish_Bob@Hotmail.com

New TBI Findings Released by CDC

According to new findings released recently by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), direct medical costs and indirect costs such as lost productivity of traumatic brain injury (TBI) totaled an estimated \$60 billion in the United States in 2000.

The new data and findings were released in the book *The Incidence and Economic Burden of Injuries in the United States*, by scientists from the CDC, as well as scientific research contractors at RTI International and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. Continued...

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This groundbreaking book examines the lifetime time costs associated with the injuries that occur in just one year. In 2000 alone, the 50 million injuries that required medical treatment will ultimately cost \$406 billion. These total costs, for both fatal and nonfatal injuries, include estimates of \$80.2 billion in medical care costs and \$326 billion in productivity losses, which include lost wages and the accompanying fringe benefits, as well as the lost ability to perform normal household responsibilities.

The authors also examine medical expenses and productivity losses by gender, age, mechanism of injury, body region and body part injured, and severity. Findings include:

- Males account for approximately 70% (\$283 billion) of the total costs of injuries.
- Persons aged 25 to 44 years represent 30% of the U.S. population and 40% (\$164 billion) of the total costs of injuries.
- Motor vehicle and fall injuries account for 22% (\$89 billion) and 20% (\$81 billion) of the total costs of injuries.
- Upper extremity and lower extremity injuries each account for 17% (\$68 billion) of the total costs of injuries.

Additional findings and information about purchasing the book can be found on CDC's Website at: www.cdc.gov/injury.

For more information on TBI and/or CDC's TBI-related activities and publications, including a general fact sheet updated to reflect this new TBI cost information, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/TBI.htm>.

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Save The Date for our Regional Seminars

The statewide conference has been an annual tradition for BIATX for the past 23 years, and we thank all of you who have been a part of the success of this tradition. As part of our ongoing efforts to increase the strength of BIATX, the Board of Directors has elected to hold this statewide conference on an every other year basis in the future, with regional meetings held on alternate years.

This year, we are planning to hold regional seminars in Austin, Houston, and Amarillo. The goals for these seminars will be to provide a high quality educational program that provides content of interest to survivors and family members as well as rehabilitation professionals. The reasoning for moving towards providing regional seminars is to try to improve access for our membership, since we recognize that travel to a single location may be difficult for some. We also hope that these seminars will provide additional funding to support the programs of BIATX, as holding day-long seminars in multiple sites may be conducted at a lower cost.

Speakers this year will include Angelle Sander, Ph D, Jim Misko, Psy D, Cindy Ivanhoe, MD and an advocacy workshop presented by Jodi Park of The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. Save these dates, full schedules to be announced soon:

- The Austin seminar will be held **September 8, 2006** at the BIATX office building.
- The West Texas seminar will be held **October 7, 2006** at the Amarillo College in the Business and Industry Center, 1324 South Polk, Amarillo, Texas.
- The Houston seminar will be **October 28, 2006** at the University of Houston, in the Houston Room of the University Center.

The 24th Brain Injury Association of Texas statewide conference will be held in April 2007 in Austin, Texas. We are moving the conference time to February to take advantage of the legislature being in session and will combine advocacy with educational activities at that meeting. Jonas Schwartz is the Conference Chair for 2007.

Come Support the Association at the Third Annual Headbanger's Call

The Headbanger's Call will be held July 8, 2006 at Beerland in Austin, TX. The event to raise awareness about brain injury is in its third year. Proceeds from a \$5.00 admission collected at the door will go toward operating expenses for the Association. This year's musical line-up includes The Junglerockers, The Thunderchiefs, The Bloody Tears and Two Hoots and a Holler. Call us for more information. See you down at the show!!

Help Us Update our Membership Information

If you have moved or changed email addresses, please drop us a line at info@biatx.org.
