"Working With People With Disabilities

A Guide For Responders" is now available from The Baltimore County Fire Department. This 26-minute training DVD, produced in cooperation with the Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities, is designed to help personnel from emergency medical services, fire, police, and others work effectively and compassionately with persons with disabilities. In addition to public safety agencies, the DVD also is being used for training by the American Red Cross, Central Maryland Chapter, the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, and the Baltimore County Department of Aging, and other organizations.

This training has been endorsed by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Maryland State Firemens Association (MSFA), and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions, as well as a number of other public agencies and non-governmental disabilities advocacy groups.

This DVD training would not have been possible without the help of those persons with disabilities who were gracious enough to appear in the video and share their *first person* accounts. They communicated their views, concerns, needs and expectations more effectively than we could have explained. We also thank the many advocates for persons with disabilities who previewed the DVD and made many helpful suggestions for improvement.

The DVD is available at no charge for training purposes.

Contact Fire Director James M. Korn at jkorn@baltimorecountymd.gov to obtain a free copy.

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