

MAY 2025

# PLUMAS COUNTY ACCESS & FUNCTIONAL NEEDS NEWSLETTER

A subcommittee of the Tri-Health Care Coalition



## Access and Functional Needs Training Retreat Day

February 20, 2025, Plumas County Access and Functional Needs Committee held the first annual retreat training day. This training was designed to provide basic information regarding emergency management concepts in a collaborative team-building atmosphere. Members of the Plumas County Access and Functional Needs Committee were provided tools on how to respond during a disaster and resources to help address the AFN individuals in our community. The focus of the training was on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

This training was well attended, with over 30 individuals from agencies across Plumas County, along with members of the California Department of Public Health and California Office of Emergency Services.

The mission of the Plumas County AFN Committee is to enhance the preparation and abilities of individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs to survive and recover from emergencies and disasters.

These trainings will continue to be held annually to help our committee collaborate as a group and improve their knowledge of emergency management guidance. The AFN committee provides county emergency management guidance and insight in mitigation, preparedness, response, and



recovery efforts of emergencies affecting the communities of Plumas County. The committee has been vital in providing timely and valuable information to county emergency management in local emergencies as well as providing a bridge for communication with the population they serve.

Mark your calendar: Access and Functional Needs meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025 @ 1:30pm

## SPOTLIGHT: MARTY WALTERS

### Chair for the Plumas County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

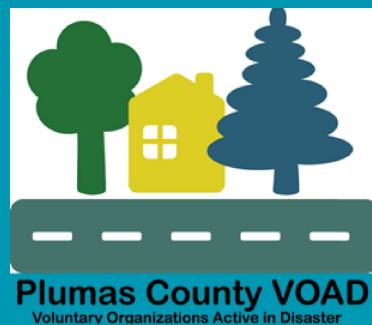
Marty Walters volunteers as the chair for the Plumas County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), a new organization in Plumas County.



Marty has worked in disaster response for many decades as an environmental risk expert. Plumas County VOAD is part of a national network of non-profit organizations and individuals respond to natural disasters to support local government partners and first responders. They focus on communicating and coordinating local volunteers and non-profit organizations, as well as regional and national non-profit resources.

People with access and functional needs are first on their priority list because they know that good support for this group results in better support to the rest of our communities. Plumas VOAD is 100 percent about planning, response, and recovery. They are a network of organizations that do other things in the community, so their purpose is to help that network be more effective and prepared during an emergency.

VOAD is always looking for Plumas County organizations and individuals who want to join their network. If interested contact Marty!



[Marty.walters@recoveryrisk.com](mailto:Marty.walters@recoveryrisk.com)

<https://www.plumasdisaster.org/>

## EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Earthquakes can occur without warning. It's important for everyone, especially individuals with access and functional needs, to be prepared. Individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with other access or functional considerations may face extra challenges during and after an earthquake. Taking time to prepare now can make a big difference in staying safe when earthquakes occur.

Here are a few key earthquake preparedness tips:

- **Make a Plan:** Know how you will evacuate and where you will go, and how you will communicate with others.
- **Share your plan** with your support network.
- **Build a Kit:** Include medications, medical equipment, backup power for devices, and copies of important documents. Be sure to add extra food, water, and comfort items.
- **Secure Your Space:** Anchor heavy furniture, secure medical devices, and make sure pathways will remain clear for mobility.
- **Practice Safety:** If you use a wheelchair or mobility device, practice "Lock, Cover, and Hold On" during drills and know the safe spots in your home to shelter from falling objects.
- **Stay Informed:** Sign up for emergency alerts in your area and make sure your devices are charged and accessible.

Preparedness is personal, so plan for your specific needs. The more you plan, the better you can increase personal safety for you and your loved ones.



Visit [Be Disaster Ready, California](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/), to learn lifesaving tips for different types of disasters.