

Consumer Advisory Committee
Homeland Security
Recommendation adopted: November 19, 2004

1. Encourage the transmission of emergency information via both open captioning and main channel audio announcements whenever doing so is technically feasible.
2. Encourage dialogue between service providers and equipment manufacturers concerning the availability of telephone relay services and text messaging for the hearing and speech impaired during emergencies.
3. Encourage the cooperation of the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and relevant private industry to work to ensure that Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS), the OASIS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), and/or future development of all-hazards warning systems integrate into their digital platforms appropriate means of disseminating timely emergency information to all Americans, including people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
4. Encourage the continued participation by the FCC in the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The Commission representative to this council is further encouraged to report regularly to the CGB and to the CAC as to the ongoing efforts of this council to ensure emergency preparedness for all citizens with disabilities.
5. Recommend that FCC, through the Interagency Council and other relevant federal agencies, appropriate funds to ensure that all Americans have timely access to emergency information, including those with disabilities, non-English speakers, and those in rural areas.

Finally, as a means of "closing the loop" for these recommendations, we would appreciate receiving a formal response to these recommendations at the next scheduled meeting of the newly rechartered CAC.