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Public Comments on Emergency Alert System:=====

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Comment: Alert systems need to consider those in the community with hearing impairments. Towns and counties via local emergency management authorities should require practice drills, information giving sessions, and appropriate technology resources to assure any household with hearing impaired individuals has a way to learn how to handle a community emergency.

I live in rural Georgia. I have no idea what my town would do in an emergency situation. I am afraid my needs to understand and cooperate with authorities will triage me to the end of any information portal. As a smaller percentage of the population, will special needs individuals be set adrift? What way will I be informed of an emergency? I will not hear the civil defense sirens.

Do I need advance instructions? How should I prepare for potential relocation? I have a Service Dog. Will emergency shelters allow my Service Dog from a Nationally recognized organization (Canine Companions for Independence) as important to my well-being and safety, be permitted in a shelter? How do I best plan for an emergency? Should I have to evacuate, will I be permitted to take two weeks of dog food rations with me? Will my dog be eaten for food?

Who or what people will help me? Specifically? How will authorities know how to handle me and my needs appropriately? Who do I trust to represent a true and accurate understanding to authorities of my needs and requirements? Who will protect me from ignorant do-gooders?

An emergency is by definition chaotic. What assurances can be given, if any, that my safety and needs are being considered? Can I opt out of the plan? Will I be restrained or shot for not following orders I can't hear?

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