

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

To: Federal Communications Commission
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Regarding Access to Televised Emergency Information
by People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

I have been legally blind since age 14 and I am now 66. I have missed having access to communication on television to which sighted persons have easy access. I respectfully request that the FCC take action to ensure that individuals who are blind or have low vision have access to televised emergency programming.

To accomplish this, the FCC needs to identify methods to make such on-screen-displayed text -- which includes written or other non-verbal information (whether scrolled or displayed as characters or images) that appears on a television screen -- accessible to this population. Such text should include information provided:

- * during regular programming when such information is provided to afford viewers with warnings of and instructions on how to respond to emergency or hazardous conditions;
- * during local and national news bulletins; and
- * during the broadcasting of any other information the Commission deems appropriate.

On October 3, 2008 the American Council of the Blind petitioned the FCC to begin the rule making process on this very issue. This petition utilized the CAC's adopted recommendations. The Consumer Advisory Committee supports this petition and urges the FCC to move forward in its rule making process to insure that people who are blind or visually impaired have access to televised emergency information.

Adopted: November 14, 2008 (3 members abstaining)

I personally urge you to please consider the petition of the American Council of the Blind and the recommendation of the Consumer Advisory Committee in beginning the process toward accessible television for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Thank you.

Jeanette M. Schmoyer