

Our training is specifically customized per first responder discipline.



People depend on first responders to assist in a variety of emergencies, whether natural disasters, physical or medical needs, service, or protection. Some of those people may have some type of disability. It is imperative that first responders are prepared to assist all members of their community in order to ensure their well-being and quality of life.

The First Responder Disability Awareness Training offered by Niagara University is designed to give you the knowledge necessary to best serve and respond to individuals with disabilities. Created in cooperation with all the major first responder associations, councils and state offices, the curriculum is specifically customized for each responder discipline, providing information that is current, relevant, and easily implemented.

“ All in all, I was very glad that I signed up for this training. I also believe that when I bring this info back to my department, and other local departments, that my EMS peers will also feel the same benefits and growth from this knowledge. I was also appreciative of all the talking points which are included. ”

— Certified EMS Instructor

“ Soon after the training started I realized it's very relevant to the police department and first responders. Whether a person with a disability is a victim or an offender, you need to realize why this person is responding or not responding in a certain way. Also, it's good to know how to communicate. It's very important to know what to do and not to do, especially for the victim's sake. ”

— Police Captain

Programs offered include:

- Two-day single-discipline Train the Trainer
- Four-day multidiscipline Train the Trainer
- Full-day department-specific presentation
- Other options per request

Contact us for pricing.

Visit frdat.niagara.edu for more information.

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First Responder Disability Awareness Training

*Educating all disciplines of first responders
on how to properly interact, respond, and address all
matters relative to individuals with disabilities.*

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Train the Trainer



Our Train the Trainer program is designed to teach firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement, and 911 operators/dispatchers to do the First Responder Disability Awareness Training. We provide you with a working manual, complete power point presentation with talking points, handouts on each disability and relevant topics therein, community resources, state and local websites, and a resource manual. Once you complete this training, you are prepared to become the point person in your department or agency. We maintain an ongoing relationship with you, providing you with the support you need to answer any question, as well as connections with local resources and individuals who can assist you in your municipality or region.



“ The presentation offers a lot of information about a broad spectrum of conditions and disabilities. All information provided was equally useful. ”

— Fire Chief

Our curriculum offers a strong foundation in sensitivity training. It includes definitions of disabilities and the proper response to each; information on state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act; etiquette and interaction tips; person-first language and ways to overcome communication barriers; service provision and caregiver roles and responsibilities; and extensive resources. In addition, discipline-specific topics are incorporated to ensure the training meets your particular needs.

Law Enforcement

- Victimization
- Offenders with developmental disabilities
- Caregiver/parent role
- Specific encounter examples
- Service animals
- Abuse

911 Operators

- Service providers
- Speech-to-speech
- Identification of disabilities
- Augmentative communication
- Speech and communication disorders



Firefighters

- Prevention and Planning
- Evacuation
- Communication techniques
- Adaptive equipment
- Outreach and identification
- State-run and voluntary residences

Emergency Medical Services

- Durable medical equipment
- Assistive technology
- Recognition
- Transportation
- Medications relevant to certain disabilities



Emergency Management

- Planning considerations
- Sheltering and mass care
- Registries
- CERT
- Access and functional needs defined
- All-inclusive committees
- FEMA Office of Disability Integration & Coordination

“ The trainer manual was excellent. Extremely easy to follow. One of the best I have ever used. ”

— Police Training Officer

