

## **ASLize Yourself**

**Presented by:** Andrea Forte, Director, Central Texas Disaster Action Response Team;

**Presentation Abstract:** Emergency Management has worked hard to be inclusive with the "whole community" but still fails one section of the population - Deaf Community. This presentation is designed to discuss why incorporating American Sign Language into your planning is important, providing information on finding interpreting agencies, identifying certified interpreters vs. "Pizza Bear Man" or other fakes, creating contracts for emergency response interpreters, and a hands-on practice of some basic signs used in an emergency. Participants should walk away with handouts, signing practice homework, and a new appreciation for the Deaf Community.