Problem to be addressed:
For emergency interpreting services, state and local governments often called for interpreters for Coronavirus briefings on TV and the internet. When they declare any other emergency alerts, they don't usually call interpreters. We need to demand all levels of government to stay with interpreting services for all types of emergencies. We feel that those media outlets must provide interpreting services anytime.

Proposed Solution:
1. Create a local communication access advisory council at local levels to maintain communication between deaf and hoh communities and local authorities.
2. Develop a guideline to ensure all communication access is available.
3. Provide information related to emergency services to local authorities.

Rationale:
Our rationale is to ensure all local communication access is available for emergency situations. For instance, Cory Barr whose parents are deaf was killed during an explosion on July 10, 2018 in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. No local outlets provided interpreting services until last minute. And more, a deaf couple in West Oshkosh whose daughter was at her high school during a shooting spree last year lost contact with local authorities due to lack of the availability of interpreting services.

Fiscal Impact:
None. Video/online conference only. Information referral can be posted on nad.org.

NAD Board/HQ Response:
The NAD already has a position statement available for Emergency Management Agencies regarding accessibility, which can be found here: https://www.nad.org/about-us/position-statements/position-statement-on-accessible-emergency-management-for-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-people/. The NAD has supported and is available to support state associations and affiliates who would like to pursue their local communities for increasing access for individuals who are deaf, deafblind, deaf and disabled, and hard of hearing. Recently, the NAD has begun working with others to develop and pass federal legislation to mandate specific standards for provision of ASL during emergency announcements and briefings.