



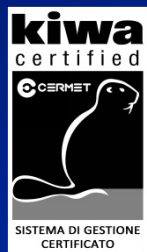
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XI Autism-Europe International Congress 2016

Helping you to rescue me

The rescue of people with ASD: guidelines for firefighters

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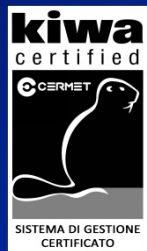
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The matter is...

**Rescuing a person with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
in a dangerous situation (i.e. collapsed or burning
buildings)**

could be a challenge

- both for the person herself, who lives an unexpected critical situation,
- and for rescuers who are not aware of the person's characteristics and cannot understand his unusual behaviors.



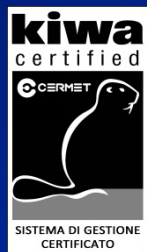
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The matter is...

Firefighters and other emergency response agencies need specific knowledge about ASD and the best strategies to relate to people affected, in order to assure them help and assistance in dangerous situations.

What kind of support this person need?

Can he understand me?

How can I help him to understand the situation?



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What can we do?

An analysis of criticisms about standard safe operations
in relation to

➤ Lack of social and psychological intuition:

« *I do not know what it will happen* »

« *I do not know what I have to do* »

« *I do not know what you are going to do* »

➤ Language and communication impairments:

I cannot ask: « *What will happen?* »

« *What do I have to do?* »

« *What are you going to do?* »



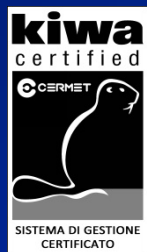
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What can we do?

➤ Sensory issues:

This hurts me

➤ Unexpected events:

I do not like unexpected events

Lack of social and psychological intuition:

« I do not know what it will happen »

« I do not know what I have to do »

« I do not know what you are going to do »



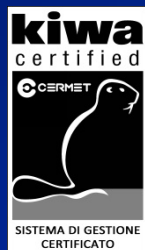
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What can we do?

Experiences, problems and needs of firefighters about rescuing people with ASD were collected.

“Does he understand me?”

“How can I help him to understand me?”

“Does this scare him?”

“Does this hurt him?”



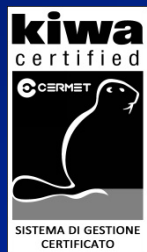
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What can we do?

Considering the needs of people with ASD and the lack of information and training on ASD of rescuers, a partnership was built with the local fire department in order to adapt usual safe operations to ASD people.



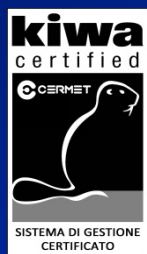
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What can we do?

This collaboration ended to the design of some guidelines and operational instruction with the purpose of organizing actions, expertise and knowledge of people involved.

Operative guidelines suggest firefighters how to manage emergency if a persons with ASD is involved helping them to attain the person's collaboration and to avoid crisis.



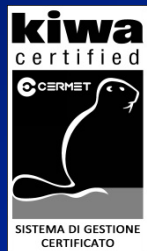
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What can we do?

The guidelines include actions towards the firefighters:

- ✓ Knowledge about ASD characteristics
- ✓ Knowledge about strategies to adopt

And actions towards the people on the autism spectrum

- ✓ Knowledge about emergency scenarios
- ✓ Knowledge about the rescuers
- ✓ Training on rescue procedures



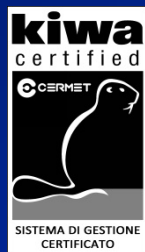
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What can we do?

The guidelines include actions towards the firefighters:

- ✓ Knowledge about ASD characteristics
- ✓ Knowledge about strategies to adopt

HANDBOOK FEATURES OF PEOPLE/CHILDREN WITH ASD AND RELEVANT INTERVENTION STRATEGIES	
Features	Strategies
<p><i>LACK OF SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL INTUITION</i></p> <p>People with ASD do not understand new situations. This causes their stress level to increase.</p> <p>People with ASD may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- not recognize the functions of emergency vehicles and the uniforms of medical staff, nursing staff, of the Police or of the Fire Department;	<p>He consults family members on how to interact as well as possible with the person.</p> <p>Unless there are specific needs, never separate the family member from the person with ASD, because the former is the only reassuring figure for the person.</p> <p>Identify the most peaceful and isolated space in which to accommodate the person with his family member.</p> <p>Move slowly.</p>



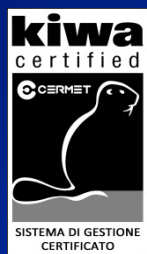
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What can we do?

And actions towards the people on the autism spectrum

- ✓ Knowledge about emergency scenarios
- ✓ Knowledge about the rescuers
- ✓ Training on rescue procedures





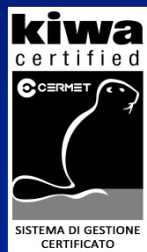
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What can we do?

And actions towards the people on the autism spectrum

✓ Knowledge about emergency scenarios

IN OFFICINA DELL'ARTE CI SONO TANTE PERSONE

ALLARME!!

SE C'E' UN PERICOLO L'OPERATORE GRIDA ALLARME

USCITA DI EMERGENZA

TUTTI USCIAMO INSIEME

TUTTI ANDIAMO FUORI IN CORTILE

ANDIAMO AL BAR E QUANDO NON C'E' PIU' IL PERICOLO POSSIAMO TORNARE IN OFFICINA DELL'ARTE



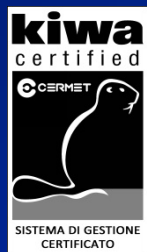
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What can we do?

And actions towards the people on the autism spectrum

✓ Knowledge about the rescuers





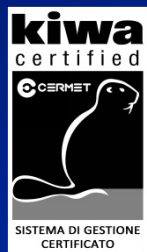
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What can we do?

And actions towards the people on the autism spectrum

✓ Training on rescue procedures





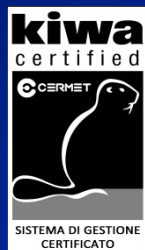
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What can we do?

Considering the peculiarities of ASD and the importance of assuring adequate protection to each person, there is a need of a collaboration between professionals experts at ASD and professionals experts at rescue people from dangerous situations in order to develop protocols adapted to the specific characteristics of ASD people.





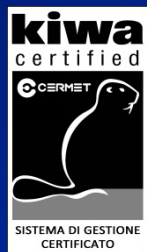
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**Thank you
for your attention!**



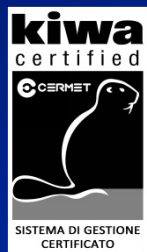
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