

FLORIDA

CONSUMER INFORMATION FOR

EMERGENCY & EVACUATION PLANNING

TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN & CREATE A SUPPORT NETWORK

How might a disaster affect me? What are my personal needs during a disaster? By evaluating your own individual needs and making an emergency plan that fits those needs, you and your loved ones can be better prepared.

Here are three easy steps to start your emergency communication plan:

1. **Collect information.** Create a paper copy of the contact information including phone, email, and social media info for your family, friends, caregivers, neighbors and other important people/offices, such as medical facilities, doctors, schools, workplace contacts or service providers.
 - Add information for connecting through relay services on a landline phone, mobile device and computer, if you are Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and use traditional relay services or video relay service (VRS)
2. **Share your emergency plans** with the trusted people in your support network – tell them:
 - Where your emergency supplies are kept
 - What you need and how to contact you if the power goes out
 - If you will call, email or text agreed upon friends or relatives if you're unable to contact each other directly
 - What medical devices or assistive technology devices that you need to have with you if there is an evacuation order from local officials
 - Your plans to remain independent if you require oxygen or mechanical ventilation
3. **Practice your plan with your support network**, just like you would a fire drill.
 - Discuss your needs and/or the needs of a family member; learn about their assistance or services. Advocate including people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency planning in your community.
 - Talk with your employer about your emergency plan, and find out how your employer includes the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.
 - Contact your city, county, or state office of emergency management, local fire and police department, disability organizations, such as the local Independent Living Center, or community groups.

FACTORS TO KEEP IN MIND:

As you prepare, tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Most or all individuals have both specific personal needs as well as resources to assist others. You and your household and others you help or rely on for assistance should work together.

As part of tailoring your plans, consider working with others to create networks of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers who will assist each other in an emergency. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, pets, or specific needs like the operation of durable medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance.

Households/individuals should consider and customize their plans for individual needs and responsibilities based on the methods of communication, types of shelter and methods of transportation available to them. Other factors to keep in mind include:

- different ages of members
- responsibilities for assisting others
- locations frequented
- dietary needs
- medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- languages
- cultural and religious considerations
- pets or service animals

Seniors should keep specialized items ready, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for service animals and any other items you might need. Keep a list of the type and model numbers of the medical devices you require. Be sure to make provisions for medications that require refrigeration. Plan for the assistance needed to get to a shelter.

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER:

A Special Needs Shelter (SpNS) is a place to go when there is no other sheltering option. Shelters may be activated during an emergency event to provide mass care for people who cannot safely remain in their home. Special needs shelters are designed to meet the needs of persons who require assistance that exceeds services provided at a general population shelter. Special needs shelters are intended to provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain an individual's level of health.

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Preparedness and Response administers a statewide Special Needs Shelter Program to assist local communities in meeting the needs of special medical and vulnerable populations.

- We will advise these patients it is recommended they register annually on the Special Needs Register and for more Info Visit at: www.floridadisaster.org
- We understand that registering for the Special Needs Register doesn't mean the patient must go, but it assists the local shelters in their preparation should they need to go.
- We will offer to assist all patients to get registered for the Special Needs Register if needed.

For those who wish to "Self-register" for the Special Needs Shelter:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/disability/specialneeds/default.aspx>

WEB RESOURCES FROM AARP:

Operation Emergency Prepare – How to Create an Emergency Plan:

<http://createthegood.org/toolkit/operation-emergency-prepare?how-to-toolkit=1>

Operation Hurricane Prepare – How to Prepare for a Hurricane:

<http://createthegood.org/toolkit/operation-hurricane-prepare?how-to-toolkit=1>

WEB RESOURCE LINKS FORM .GOV, FEMA and RED CROSS:

<https://www.ready.gov>

<https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

<https://www.ready.gov/considerations>

<https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs#>

<https://www.ready.gov/seniors> (Includes helpful 4-minute video)

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>

www.floridadisaster.org

http://www.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/special_needs.aspx

FEMA Prepare for Emergencies Now / Info for Older Americans:

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90375>

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1390858289638-80dd2aee624210b03b4cf5c398fa1bd6/ready_seniors_2014.pdf