

# DISASTER READINESS TIPS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Florida Division of Emergency Management

## Your Plan

Identify your resources. Make a list of family, friends, co-workers, personal attendants, service providers who can be part of your plan. Include people both in and out of your immediate neighborhood or community, like a relative in another state. Talk to these individuals and ask them to be part of your support network (at least 3 people in each important location, e.g. home, workplace, etc.)

Tip: Ask yourself what resources you rely on regularly and determine how a disaster might affect your use of them?

Do you use communication devices?

Do you depend on accessible transportation to get to work, doctor's appointments or to their places in your community?

Do you receive medical treatments (e.g. dialysis) on a regular basis?

Do you rely on electrically dependent equipment or other durable equipment?

Do you use mobility aids such as a walker, cane or a wheelchair?

Do you have a service animal?

## Create an Emergency Plan

Work with your support network to make a plan. You should have a plan at home, work, school, or any place you spend time regularly.

You should make a plan that includes hazards that can impact your community. Apply contingencies you use daily to deal with power outages or transportation delays or breakdowns. This will help you as you consider larger disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and terrorism.

Create a communication plan. Make sure you and your support network have each others contact information and alternate ways to communicate if phones are not working (such as an assigned meeting places, using pagers, e-mail or other technology not reliant on phone lines).

Tip: For individuals who use telecommunications relay services, look into different options to use as back-up including: dialing 711 (nationwide), Cap Tel (captioned telephone) internet based relay (through computer, text pager, PDA, etc.) and or video relay services (through broadband).

Make an evacuation plan for home, work, school, etc. Identify a primary and secondary way to evacuate the house or building.

If you require assistance to evacuate, create a plan with the assistance of your support network. If necessary, look into evacuation assistive devices or the installation of ramps at emergency exits. If you require accessible transportation to evacuate an area, identify resources both public and private.

Plan for different ways of sheltering. Consider what you can do to safety shelter –in-place. Consider how to shelter with friends and family. Finally, consider how a shelter designated for the public would meet your demands.

**Tip: See information about making a "ready kit" or "go bag".**

If you receive regular services (home health care, transportation, dialysis, make a plan with each service provider. Learn about their disaster plans and how to contact them in an emergency. Work with them to identify back-up service providers.

