

Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities



No one wants to find themselves in an emergency. For people living with a disability, the challenges associated with a critical situation can be even more acute. How ready are you should you face an emergency? The key to a successful outcome often comes down to being prepared.

A recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) survey found that nearly 60 percent of American adults have not practiced what to do in a disaster by participating in a disaster drill or preparedness exercise at work, school, or home in the past year. Only 39 percent of respondents have developed an emergency plan and discussed it with their household. *

Although you can't be ready for every possible scenario, a little research and preparation can make a big difference. This fact sheet includes links to some of the best

resources for planning ahead. From building evacuation tips and emergency kit details to planning documents and first responder resources, you'll find a wealth of information to get you started. Time spent preparing today will certainly result in peace of mind and a better plan for tomorrow.

Are You Prepared?

- Sign up for local text alerts and warnings and download weather apps to your phone.
- Develop an emergency communication plan for your family to stay in touch if family members are in different locations.
- Collect important documents and keep them in a safe place.
- Gather emergency supplies. Pack a “go bag” to evacuate quickly and have supplies in the home to be safe without water or power.

Websites

Administration for Community Living (ACL): Emergency Preparedness

<https://acl.gov/emergencypreparedness>

The ADA and Emergency Shelters: Access for All in Emergencies and Disasters

<https://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterprog.htm>

ADA Checklist for Emergency Shelters, 2007

<http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterchk.htm>

A Department of Justice booklet that can be reproduced.

American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD): Emergency Preparedness

<https://aahd.us/initiatives/emergency-preparedness/>

AAHD has been a leader in the emergency preparedness and disaster response field for people with disabilities. This site has a number of documents developed by AAHD and partners.

Bustle: What Happens to the Sick, Disabled and Elderly During Hurricanes

<https://www.bustle.com/p/what-happens-to-the-sick-disabled-elderly-during-hurricanes-2312012>

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: Emergency Preparedness and Disability Inclusion

<https://www.cdc.gov/disability-emergency-preparedness/>

Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation: Emergency Preparedness for People with Paralysis booklet

<https://www.christopherreeve.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Emergency-Prep-Booklet-4-2023-online-A.pdf>

A free booklet which offers guidance on what to do before, during and after a disaster. Please contact a Reeve Information Specialist to get a copy at 800-539-7309 or go to www.ChristopherReeve.org/Ask.

Disabled World: Disaster and Emergency Planning for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

www.disabled-world.com/disability/emergency/

Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities

<https://www.ilru.org/projects/disability911>

ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization)

1333 Moursund

Houston, TX 77030

Phone: 713-520-0232 x0

E-mail: ilru@ilru.org

This site was created to assist, educate and archive information regarding disaster preparedness for people with disabilities.

Disaster Resources for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs, Emergency Managers & Planners & Disability-Focused Organizations

<http://www.jik.com/disaster.html>

E-mail: jik@pacbell.net

This page maintained by June Isaacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant, contains many links to resources to help individuals with disabilities and organizations plan for emergencies

Eldercare Locator: Helping Older Adults Weather the Storm Before, During, and After Disasters

<https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Resources/Brochures/docs/Critical-Conversations-weather-storm-508.pdf>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

<https://www.fema.gov/>

The FEMA Helpline number is **1-800-621-3362** or TTY: **1-800-462-7585** for the speech- and hearing-impaired. These phone lines are available from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Federal Emergency Management Agency: Individuals with Access & Functional Needs

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

This page has information to help people make an emergency plan that takes their personal needs into consideration.

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH): Access and Functional Needs During a Disaster

<https://flash.org/resource/access-and-functional-needs-during-a-disaster/>

Job Accommodation Network: Emergency Evacuation

<https://askjan.org/topics/emevac.cfm>

Includes steps for including employees with disabilities in an employer's evacuation plan.

Muscular Dystrophy Association, Quest article on How to Get Personal Care Assistance in Emergency Shelters

<https://www.mda.org/quest/article/how-get-personal-care-assistance-emergency-shelters>

Muscular Dystrophy Association: Preparing for Emergencies—A Checklist for People with Neuromuscular Disease

https://www.mda.org/sites/default/files/publications/Emergencies_Checklist_P-527.pdf

National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities

<http://www.diversitypreparedness.org/>

The mission of the National Resource Center, a project of the Center for Public Health Readiness & Communication at the Drexel University School of Public Health, is to serve as a central clearinghouse of resources and an information exchange portal to facilitate communication, networking and collaboration to improve preparedness, build resilience and eliminate disparities for culturally diverse communities across all phases of an emergency.

No Person Left Behind—Oxygen: Respiratory Disaster Planning Information

<http://nopersonleftbehind.org/oxy/www/index.htm>

704 Homer Ave North

Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971-1142

Phone: 239-368-6846

Email: executivedirector@nopersonleftbehind.org

The mission of oxygen.NoPersonLeftBehind.org is to provide respiratory disaster information and planning guidelines to assist individuals with respiratory issues for travel, disaster evacuation or if needed stay in place during an emergency. Planning information covers respiratory breathing devices and ventilators, to include extra expendable supplies. The respiratory planning guide provides a checklist for individuals to check if they have, need to get, or not applicable. It also provides a place for fill in the blanks for respiratory DME Information, phone numbers and respiratory medicines of a disaster or emergency. The guide also provides information on when to check or replace expendable respiratory supplies, how often to provide preventive maintenance on your devices.

Office of Disability Employment Policy: Aiding Individuals with Service Animals During an Emergency

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/Service-Animal-ADDENDUM-07302012.pdf>

Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

<http://www.disasterstrategies.org/>

112 N. 8th St., Suite 600

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Hotline: 800-626-4959

Email: info@disasterstrategies.org

The mission of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies is equal access and full inclusion for the whole community before, during and after disasters.

Project Safe EV-AC (Evacuation and Accommodation of People with Disabilities)

http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8878_evacInAdvance.pdf

International Center for Disability Information

P.O. Box 6080

Morgantown, WV 26506-6080

Phone: 304-293-7186

Email: EVAC@icdi.wvu.edu

Ready.gov: Individuals with Disabilities

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

Research and Training Center on Independent Living: Assessing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Persons with Disabilities.

<https://rtcil.ku.edu/assessing-katrina-impact>

Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas The Research and Training Center on Independent Living, January 2007.

This report funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research adds to the Congressional report *A Failure of Initiative* by identifying major barriers faced during Hurricane Katrina by centers for independent living and emergency managers in responding to the needs of people with disabilities.

Smart 911

www.smart911.com

Allows people to create profiles of their living conditions, medical conditions, service animals, pets, etc. so that 911 has information on them before they have to call 911. There is also a vulnerable needs registry for those who may need help in being removed from the home in an emergency. Smart911 is free to people but does not exist everywhere in the U.S.

Today's Caregiver: Hurricane Preparedness for Caregivers

<https://caregiver.com/articles/hurricane-preparedness/>

U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy: Emergency Preparedness

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/EmergencyPreparedness.htm>

This page has resources to assist individuals, organizations, and employers create emergency preparedness plans that take into account the needs of people with disabilities.

What to Do After the Disaster

Tip: Know that in emergency areas, text messages may be more likely to go through than a mobile call because texts take up less bandwidth.

American Red Cross: Find an Open Shelter

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter>

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<https://www.christopherreeve.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Emergency-Prep-Booklet-4-2023-online-A.pdf>

A free booklet which offers a section on what to do after a disaster. Please contact a Reeve Information Specialist to get a copy at 800-539-7309 or go to www.ChristopherReeve.org/Ask.

DisasterAssistance.gov

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

Includes info on hotels participating in the Transitional Sheltering Assistance program.

FEMA

People can apply for FEMA assistance (the \$750 for immediate needs and much more) in several ways:

- Contact FEMA helpline by calling 1-800-621-3362
 - Online through this link: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov>
 - FEMA app can be accessed and downloaded through this link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...>
 - FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) offer one-on-one assistance for survivors who can reach one. The DRC locator can be accessed through this link: <https://egateway.fema.gov/ESF6/DRCLocator>
 - Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) teams go into communities within days, sometimes hours, of a disaster and are equipped to help survivors apply for FEMA assistance
- Please share widely if you know someone who was impacted.

Healthcare Ready

Phone: 1-866-247-2694

Healthcare Ready has activated its free, interactive Rx Open map (<https://www.healthcareready.org/rxopen.>) to show open and closed pharmacies in the region affected by a natural disaster or other emergency situation. Citizens and first responders are encouraged to use this map as an initial resource, and to call their pharmacy to ensure their specific medication is in stock.

Healthcare Ready is an independent emergency response and relief organization established after Hurricane Katrina. Healthcare Ready, created by PhRMA, has been working with PhRMA companies, healthcare providers, transportation providers, federal, state, and local governments, and many others to identify critical needs in the regions

affected by disasters. Team members work to help the pharmaceutical industry provide relief to people in need. Real-time updates can be found by following Healthcare Ready on Twitter at @HC_Ready. After a disaster, Healthcare Ready coordinates with officials at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, Health and Human Services, and other federal, state, and local agencies. Healthcare Ready helps citizens have ready access to medicines they need during and after a disaster.

United Spinal Association: Disaster Relief Grant Application

https://unitedspinal.org/disaster-relief-grant/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0P-XzPc-Cr1byHuWqzqVqrVDNOWth5nEodBBCohdPtjAQbp-zPexuXQkA_aem_YC0wrh-yUHingnxZzXzzA

Posted 10-10-24 United Spinal is accepting applications for Disaster Relief grants for individuals with spinal cord injury/disease who have been impacted by natural or human-caused disasters in 2024.

Emergency Evacuation Chairs/Transfer Slings

The following are a list of websites of manufacturers and vendors who provide emergency evacuation chairs. Please note a listing here is not an endorsement; the sites below are offered for informational purposes only.

Adapts: A Disabled Passenger Transfer Sling

www.adapts.org

Evac+Chair Stairway Evacuation Chair

<http://www.evac-chair.com>

Garaventa Lift: Evacu-Trac Evacuation Chair

<https://www.garaventalift.com/en.html>

McKinley Elevator Corporation: Evacuation Carriers

<https://www.mckinleyelevator.com/products/manufacturers-evacuation-carriers/>

Stryker Evacuation Chair

<https://www.stryker.com/us/en/emergency-care/products/evacuation-chair.html>

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