

## 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.

### Websites

<https://acl.gov/programs/emergency-preparedness>  
**Administration for Community Living (ACL): Emergency Preparedness**

<https://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterprog.htm>  
**The ADA and Emergency Shelters: Access for All in Emergencies and Disasters**

<http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterchk.htm>  
**ADA Checklist for Emergency Shelters, 2007**  
A Department of Justice booklet that can be reproduced.

<http://www.aahd.us/best-practice-topic/emergency-preparedness/>  
**American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD): Emergency Preparedness**

### **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.



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.

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

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html>

**Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: Emergency Preparedness**

[www.disabled-world.com/disability/emergency/](http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/emergency/)

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

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

**Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities**

ILRU (Independent Living Research Utilization)

2323 S Shepherd Suite 1000

Houston, TX 77019

Phone: 713-520-0232 x0

E-mail: [ilru@ilru.org](mailto:ilru@ilru.org)

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

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

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

E-mail: [jik@pacbell.net](mailto: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

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

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

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

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.

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/897> (booklet)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency: Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs**

This booklet which can be downloaded as a PDF provides a step-by-step guide to help people with disabilities or other special needs prepare an emergency plan to protect themselves, family, friends, personal care assistant and others in the support network in the event of an emergency.

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

**Federal Emergency Management Agency: Individuals with Access & Functional Needs**

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

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440775166124-c0fadbb53eb55116746e811f258efb10/FEMA-ReadySpNeeds\\_web\\_v3.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1440775166124-c0fadbb53eb55116746e811f258efb10/FEMA-ReadySpNeeds_web_v3.pdf)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency: Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities, Others with Access and Functional Needs and the Whole Community**

This brochure is designed to help people make an emergency plan that fits their personal needs.

[www.flash.org/peril\\_inside.php?id=42](http://www.flash.org/peril_inside.php?id=42)

**Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH): Floods: People with Disabilities—Disaster Safety**

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

**Job Accommodation Network: Emergency Evacuation**

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

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

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

[https://www.mda.org/sites/default/files/publications/Emergencies\\_Checklist\\_P-527.pdf](https://www.mda.org/sites/default/files/publications/Emergencies_Checklist_P-527.pdf)

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

<http://nursing.gwu.edu/national-nurse-emergency-preparedness-initiative>

**National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative**

A free web-based course from George Washington University that provides emergency preparedness training for nurses working in a wide variety of settings.

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

**National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities**

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.

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

**No Person Left Behind—Oxygen: Respiratory Disaster Planning Information**

704 Homer Ave North

Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971-1142

Phone: 239-368-6846

Email: [executivedirector@nopersonleftbehind.org](mailto: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.

<http://www2.ku.edu/~rrtcpbs/findings/>

**Nobody Left Behind: Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Mobility Impairments**

This site reports on research from a three-year study by the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas to: determine if disaster plans and emergency response systems for homes, businesses, and the community include the health, safety, and survival needs for persons with mobility impairment; assess how persons with mobility impairment fared in locations that recently experienced a disaster; and identify emerging or *Best Practices* models for counties to assist in disaster plans and emergency responses to meet the needs of persons with mobility impairments.

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

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

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

**Office of Disability Employment Policy: Emergency Preparedness**

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

**Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies**

P.O. Box 14109

Charleston, SC 29422

Hotline: 800-626-4959

Email: [info@disasterstrategies.org](mailto: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.

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8878\\_evacInAdvance.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/8878_evacInAdvance.pdf)

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

International Center for Disability Information

P.O. Box 6080

Morgantown, WV 26506-6080

Phone: 304-293-7186

Email: [EVAC@icdi.wvu.edu](mailto:EVAC@icdi.wvu.edu)

[http://rtcil.org/sites/rtcil.drupal.ku.edu/files/images/galleries/NIDRR\\_FinalKatrinaReport.pdf](http://rtcil.org/sites/rtcil.drupal.ku.edu/files/images/galleries/NIDRR_FinalKatrinaReport.pdf)

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

[www.phe.gov](http://www.phe.gov)

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/shelterinplace.aspx>

**Public Health Emergency: Personal Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities-- Sheltering in Place and Evacuation**

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

**Today's Caregiver: Hurricane Preparedness for Caregivers**

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

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

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**

<http://www.211.org/services/national-events>

**211 Current National Emergencies and Disasters**

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

**American Red Cross: Find an Open Shelter**

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

**DisasterAssistance.gov**

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

## **Healthcare Ready**

Phone: 1-866-247-2694

Healthcare Ready has activated its free, interactive [Rx Open map](#) 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.

### **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.

[www.adapts.org](http://www.adapts.org)

**Adapts:** A Disabled Passenger Transfer Sling

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

**Evac+Chair Stairway Evacuation Chair**

[http://www.garaventlift.com/en/products/evacuation\\_chairs/evacu-trac/features](http://www.garaventlift.com/en/products/evacuation_chairs/evacu-trac/features)

**Garaventa Lift: Evacu-Trac Evacuation Chair**

<http://www.mckinleyelevator.com/products/evacuation-carriers/wheelchair-evacuation-carrier.php>

**McKinley Elevator Corporation: Evacuation Carriers**

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

**Stryker Evacuation Chair**

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\* Retrieved June 12, 2017 from: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/04/28/sixty-percent-americans-not-practicing-disaster-fema-urges-everyone-prepare>