

Are You Prepared?

Why is it important to have an emergency preparedness plan?

Because, every year thousands of Floridians may face disasters and are not always prepared, including elders and individuals with disabilities. Emergencies can occur at anytime and anywhere. Examples of emergencies to prepare for are weather circumstances such as hurricanes, tornadoes, waterspouts, floods, tidal waves, and other sudden changes in weather. Additional examples of emergencies in a community may be widespread fires, discharge of toxic gases, widespread power failures, nuclear accident, water system shutdowns, industrial explosions, civil disorders, shutdown or delay of transportation systems, and school closings. Because emergencies often occur without warning and may leave little or no time for preparation, it is always prudent to be prepared and plan ahead and to know what actions to take before, during and after an emergency strikes. There are tools to help you with your questions such as:

- Have you made a plan?
- How will you keep informed?
- Should you evacuate or stay?
- Where will you go?



For detailed information on emergency preparedness planning tools, instructions and helpful hints go to:

<http://www.advocacycenter.org/disasterprep/>

How do I register with the Special Needs Registry?

In Florida, it is the option of each person with disabilities to register with the Special Needs Registry maintained by the Emergency Management Division in each county. Ask your county's Emergency Management Division representative for details on services available in your county. You can locate your emergency management officials through http://www.floridadisaster.org/fl_county_em.asp. The Special Needs Registry allows emergency personnel to locate individuals with disabilities in each county in an emergency and understand their individual and unique needs. Services that can be provided may vary from county to county but may include access to a special needs shelter or transportation from your home to a shelter.

What should I know about pets and service animals?

According to the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS) of 2006, state and local emergency preparedness operational plans must address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals. People who have pets are responsible for their health and safety and must have a plan during a disaster that includes those pets.



Remember, service animals are not pets and are allowed in ALL shelters.

Can I get prescription medication refills during a disaster?

It is important to have your prescribed medicines in your disaster survival kit. But, what happens when there is an emergency and your insurance company says it is too early for you to get a refill? During a storm, you should listen to the radio or news on television to know if any of the conditions below are going to occur. The “Emergency Prescription Refill” law lets you refill your prescribed medicines in case of a disaster if your county:

- Is currently under a hurricane warning issued by the National Weather Service
- Is declared to be under a state of emergency in an executive order issued by the governor **or**
- Has started its emergency operations center and its emergency management plan



For more information, please contact:



Advocacy Center
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Toll Free 800-342-0823 or TDD 800-346-4127

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