



# Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special Needs. Get Ready Now.

## 1. Get a Kit of emergency supplies.

Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least **three days**, maybe longer. While there are many things that might make you more comfortable, think first about fresh water, food and clean air.

### Recommended Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit:

- ✓ **Water:** one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- ✓ **Non-perishable food:** at least a three-day supply
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank **radio** and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ✓ **Flashlight** and **extra batteries**
- ✓ **First aid kit**
- ✓ **Whistle** to signal for help
- ✓ **Filter mask** or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- ✓ **Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties** for personal sanitation
- ✓ **Wrench or pliers** to turn off utilities
- ✓ **Manual can opener** if kit contains canned food
- ✓ **Plastic Sheeting** and **duct tape** to shelter-in-place
- ✓ **Important family documents**
- ✓ **Items for unique family needs**, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula, diapers or pet food



**Include Medications and Medical Supplies:** If you take medicine or use a medical treatment on a daily basis, be sure you have what you need on hand to make it on your own for at least a week and keep a copy of your prescriptions as well as dosage or treatment information. If it is not possible to have a week-long supply of medicines and supplies, keep as much as possible on hand and talk to your pharmacist or doctor about what else you should do to prepare. If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, or if you receive regular services such as home health care, treatment or transportation, talk to your service provider about their emergency plans. Work with them to identify back-up service providers within your area and other areas you might evacuate to.

**Include Emergency Documents:** Include copies of important documents in your emergency supply kits such as family records, medical records, wills, deeds, social security number, charge and bank accounts information, and tax records. It is best to keep these documents in a waterproof container. If there is any information related to operating equipment or life-saving devices that you rely on, include those in your emergency kit as well. If you have a communication disability, make sure your emergency information list notes the best way to communicate with you. Also be sure you have cash or travelers checks in your kits in case you need to purchase supplies.

**Additional Items:** If you use eyeglass, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries or oxygen, be sure you always have extras in your kit. Also have copies of your medical insurance, Medicare and Medicaid cards readily available. If you have a service animal, be sure to include food, water, collar with ID tag, medical records and other emergency pet supplies.

**Consider two kits.** In one, put everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you have to get away.

## 2. Make a Plan for what you will do in an emergency.

The reality of a disaster situation is that you will likely not have access to everyday conveniences. To plan in advance, think through the details of your everyday life.

**Develop a Family Emergency Plan.** Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. **Consider a plan where each family member calls, or e-mails, the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency.** It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the attack, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. **Watch television and listen to the radio for official instructions as they become available.**

For more information, visit [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) or call 1-800-BE-READY