



# Plan for Special Needs

*You may have to take additional steps for friends, neighbors or family members with special needs.*

*Make a Plan. Make a Difference.*

If you have a disability or special need, you may have to take additional steps to protect yourself and your household in an emergency. If you know of friends or neighbors with special needs, help them with these extra precautions.

- The hearing impaired may need to make special arrangements to receive a warning. *Make notes here.*

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- Those who are mobility impaired may need assistance in getting to a shelter. *Make notes here.*

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- Households with a single working parent may need help from others both in planning for disasters and during an emergency. *Who can help?*

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- Non-English speaking people may need assistance planning for and responding to emergencies. *Make notes here.*

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- Community and cultural groups may be able to help keep these populations informed. *Make notes here.*

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- People without vehicles may need to make arrangements for transportation. *Make notes here.*

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- People with special dietary needs should have an adequate emergency food supply. *Make notes here.*

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### Steps You Should Take

- Find out about special assistance that may be available in your community. Register with the office of emergency services or fire department for assistance, so needed help can be provided quickly in an emergency.
- Create a network of neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers to aid you in an emergency. Discuss your needs and make sure they know how to operate necessary equipment.
- Discuss your needs with your employer.
- If you are mobility impaired and live or work in a high-rise building, have an escape chair.
- If you live in an apartment building, ask the management to mark accessible exits clearly and to make arrangements to help you evacuate the building.
- Keep extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for guide or hearing-ear dogs, or other items you might need. Also, keep a list of the type and serial numbers of medical devices you need.
- Those who are not disabled should learn who in their neighborhood or building is disabled so that they may assist them during emergencies.
- If you are a care-giver for a person with special needs, make sure you have a plan to communicate if an emergency occurs.