

# People with Disabilities

People with disabilities often require assistance and additional time to prepare for a disaster. The following list, while not exhaustive, provides some practical tips for those with special needs.

- Establish a personal support network. This network of friends, family and neighbors can assist in disaster preparations and getting you to a safe place.
- Post emergency instructions on the refrigerator to include medication dosages, necessary equipment and emergency contacts.
- Register with local emergency management and fire departments.
- Identify multiple evacuation routes from home and/or work.
- Share your plan with your employer.
- Carry emergency health information and emergency contacts at all times, i.e. a medical alert tag or bracelet to identify disability information.
- Have an alternate means of communication, like a dry erase board or writing tablet and markers.
- When calling 911, tap the space bar to engage the TDD system.
- Install speciality fire safety devices in the home, such as fire extinguishers and smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing light. Consider installing an alarm with strobe light outside the home to alert neighbors. Test alarms and inspect extinguishers regularly and replace smoke alarm batteries every six months.
- Keep a flashlight, whistle or bell handy to signal your whereabouts to others.
- Build a disaster supply kit. See a full list of supplies on the "Disaster Safety" FLASH Card.
- Purchase and monitor NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio or visit [www.flashweatheralerts.org](http://www.flashweatheralerts.org) to download a severe weather alerts App for your iOS or Android powered device.

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