

Elderly/Special Needs and Disasters

People with disabilities should take extra precautions when preparing for a disaster. One of the most important things you can do is have a buddy, someone who can help you evacuate and take care of you. During an emergency, your usual care giver may not be able to help you, so make sure your buddy know how to operate any medical equipment you use.

When planning for the care of the elderly and those special needs, please consider the following recommendations:

- Establish a close network of relative and friends who can assist your family in an emergency.
- Make sure helpers know where to find the disaster-supply kit which includes emergency supplies, medicines, and other essential equipment.
- Remind family members to always wear a medical alert tag or bracelet if they have threatening health conditions.
- Compose a list of special items, equipment and supplies family members will need during a disaster. Extra supplies people with disabilities and special needs may require are:
 - Prescription medications, a record of when and how much of the medicine you should receive
 - Prosthetic devices
 - List of style and serial numbers of medical devices
 - Extra eye glasses and a record of the prescription
 - Emergency medical certification
 - Extra oxygen
 - Extra pillows, bedding
 - Medical insurance and Medicare cards
 - Back-up power supplies or generators for heat or air-conditioning
 - Extra wheelchair batteries
 - Hearing aids, batteries

