



Planning for specific needs

People with hearing impairments

- Store hearing aids in a consistent, convenient and secured place, so you quickly and easily can locate them in a disaster. Consider storing them in a container attached to your nightstand or bedpost.
- If available, keep an extra hearing aid with your emergency supplies.
- Keep extra batteries for your TTY and light phone signaler. Check your manual for proper maintenance advice.
- Install both audible and visual smoke alarms in your home. At least one should be battery operated.
- Find out if fire alarms in buildings you frequent are visual.
- Determine how to communicate with emergency personnel if there's no interpreter or if you don't have your hearing aid(s). Keep paper and a pen handy.
- Consider carrying a copy of key phrases, such as "I speak American Sign Language" and "I need an ASL interpreter."
- Determine how you will receive disaster information if the power is out.

People with mobility concerns

- Store emergency supplies in a pack or backpack attached to your walker, wheelchair or scooter.
- Store needed mobility aids (canes, crutches, walkers and wheelchairs) close to you in a consistent, convenient and secured location. Keep extra aids, if available, in several locations.
- Add these items to your disaster supplies kit:
 - A pair of heavy gloves to use while wheeling or making your way over glass and debris.
 - An extra battery for your motorized wheelchair or scooter. Ask your vendor if you can recharge the battery by connecting jumper cables to a vehicle battery or using a special converter that plugs into a vehicle's cigarette lighter.
 - Patch kit or can of seal-in-air to repair flat tires or an extra supply of inner tubes.
 - A lightweight, manual wheelchair, if available.
- Arrange and secure furniture and other items to create barrier-free passages in your home and office.
- If you spend time above the first floor of an elevator building, plan and practice using alternate methods of evacuation. If needed, enlist the help of your personal support network.
- There will be instances when wheelchair users will have to leave their chairs behind to evacuate safely. If you can't use the stairs, familiarize yourself with lifting and carrying techniques that will work for you. Alert rescue personnel to areas of vulnerability. For example, the traditional firefighter's carry can be hazardous for people with respiratory weakness. You need to be able to give brief instructions regarding how to move you.

People with visual disabilities

- Keep a collapsible cane by your bed. Attach a whistle to the cane to use if you need to attract attention.
- Keep extra canes in your disaster supplies kit and in strategic, consistent and secured locations at work, home, school, volunteer sites and other routine areas to help you maneuver around obstacles and hazards.
- If you have some vision, place plug security lights into electrical wall outlets in each room to light paths automatically if there is a loss of power. Depending on the type, they operate for one to six hours and can be turned off manually to be used as flashlights.
- Store high-powered flashlights (with wide beams) and extra batteries.
- Service animals can become confused, panicked, frightened or disoriented during a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. Be prepared to use alternative methods to negotiate your environment.
- Plan on losing the auditory clues you normally rely on following a major disaster. For example, be aware that alarms can drown out the sound of people running.
- If helpful, mark emergency supplies with large print, fluorescent tape or Braille.