

Safety Tips for People with Disabilities



When creating your emergency plan, remember that family members with disabilities have unique challenges to consider. Mobility problems and hearing, learning, or seeing disabilities can add complications to staying safe during an emergency. It is important to plan ahead so you are better prepared for any urgent situation.



Include everyday basic medical essentials in the emergency preparedness kit including equipment, assistive technologies, medical supplies, medication.

If a family member has a respiratory, cardiac or Multiple Chemical Sensitivities condition, store towels, masks, industrial respirators and other supplies you can use to filter your air supply.

Ensure that large objects that might block escape routes have been cleared or secured.

Involve everyone in the household in creating and practicing a plan for safely transporting the family member with disabilities if it becomes necessary to quickly seek shelter or evacuate.



Include on your family emergency plan, the representatives who can quickly replace accessible technologies (having serial and model numbers nearby), refill medical supplies & medications, enable communication with recovery specialists and reestablish transportation.

If you are unable to afford extra supplies for your emergency kit, consider contacting one of the many disability-specific organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Arthritis Foundation, United Cerebral Palsy Association, etc. These organizations may be able to assist you in gathering extra low-cost or no-cost emergency supplies or medications.

Understand how to operate and safely move any essential equipment, and consider attaching easy-to-read instructions.

If an electric wheelchair or scooter is used, have a manual wheelchair for backup.

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