

Preparing For Emergencies Some Key Considerations



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Tips To Prepare For An Emergency and Disaster

Shelter Evacuation

- Maintain a list of shelter facilities in your local area that are accessible and meet your particular needs.
 - Locate shelters by texting shelter and your zip code to 43362
- Plan ahead for accessible transportation that you may need for evacuation or getting to a medical clinic.
- Work with local services, public transportation or paratransit to identify your local or private accessible transportation options.



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Tips To Prepare For An Emergency and Disaster

- Shelter Evacuation
 - Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supplies. You may want to consider giving one member a key to your house or apartment.
 - If you utilize a caregiver, identify alternate caregiver(s) that would be available as back ups.



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Tips To Prepare For An Emergency and Disaster

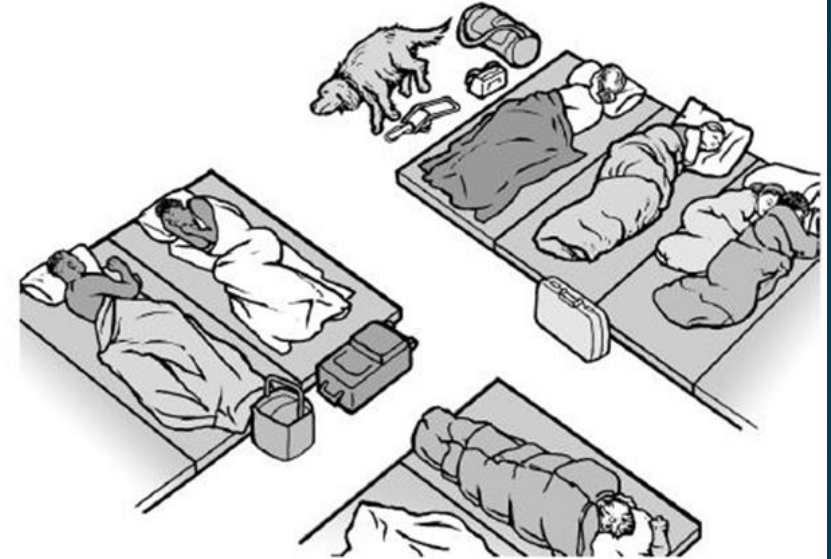
- Shelter Evacuation
 - Contact your city or county government's emergency management agency or office. Many local offices keep lists of people with disabilities. **Please note, registering on a list does not mean that someone will be sent to your home during a disaster.**



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Pet and Service Animal Plan

- Under the ADA, only service animals must be allowed into public shelters. State laws may differ. Some states have different rules and may allow emotional support animals or pets.
- Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that work best for you and your animals.
- Supplies and medications for a service animal, ESA, or pet.
- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) has some publications you can download that can assist you in planning for the needs of your pets during disasters.



A woman has a service animal lying on the floor next to her cot.

Tips for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- You should have the following on hand during an emergency:
 - A weather radio (with text display and a flashing alert).
 - Extra hearing-aid batteries.
 - Pen and paper (in case you have to communicate with someone who does not know sign language).
 - Battery operated lantern to allow you to see when using ASL or reading lips.
 - For more tips click [Ready.Gov](https://www.ready.gov)



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Tips for People Who are Blind or Have Low Vision

- You should have the following on hand during an emergency:
 - Mark emergency supplies with Braille labels or large print.
 - Keep communication devices for your particular needs, such as a Braille or deaf-blind communications device as part of your emergency supply kit.
 - For more tips click [Ready.Gov](https://www.ready.gov)



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Tips for People with Speech Disability

- If you use an augmentative communications device or other assistive technologies plan how you will evacuate with the devices or how you will replace equipment if it is lost or destroyed. Keep model information and note where the equipment came from (Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, etc.).
- Plan how you will communicate with others if your equipment is not working, including laminated cards with phrases and/or pictogram.



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Tips for People with a Mobility Disability

- If you use a power wheelchair have a lightweight manual chair available as a backup if possible. Know the size and weight of your wheelchair in addition to whether or not it is collapsible, in case it has to be transported.
- Show others how to operate your wheelchair.
- Maintain a back up battery for durable medical equipment, assistive technology devices, or power wheelchair. If you can't purchase an extra battery, find out what agencies, organizations or local charitable groups can help you buy one. Keep extra batteries on a trickle charger at all times.
- Consider keeping a patch kit or can of sealant for flat tires and/or extra inner tube if wheelchair or scooter is not puncture proof. Keep a portable air pump for wheelchair tires.
- Keep an extra mobility device such as a cane or walker if you use one.
- If you use a seat cushion to protect your skin or maintain your balance and you must evacuate, have an extra cushion to take with you.



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Build An Emergency Kit Slide 1

- In addition to having your basic survival supplies, an [emergency kit](#) should contain items to meet your individual needs in various emergencies. Consider the items you use on a daily basis and which ones you may need to add to your kit.
- Ensure you consider what durable medical equipment, supplies for equipment, and any assistive technology that you utilize.



Build An Emergency Kit Slide 2

- Copies of medical prescriptions
- Doctor's orders
- The style and serial numbers of assistive devices you use; contact information of your DME provider.
- Medical insurance cards, and Medicare/Medicaid cards.



Build An Emergency Kit Slide 3

- Several days of any medication or medical supplies you use regularly.
- If you use oxygen, keep a back up supply.
- A list of allergies and health history.



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Build An Emergency Kit Slide 4

- Medical alert tags or bracelets, or written descriptions of your disability and support needs in case you are unable to describe the situation in an emergency.
- Extra eyeglasses, hearing aids (if needed), and back up supplies for any medical equipment.
- Back up batteries for phone, DME, or assistive technology.



Build An Emergency Kit Slide 5

- Whistle, air horn, or button alarm to bring attention to your location if you are not able verbally call for help.
- High-powered flashlight with wide beam or battery-operated lantern.
- Hand cranked or battery-operated radio.



Consider Specific Needs in Your Household

- As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities.
- If you receive Social Security or other regular benefits, you may want to consider switching to electronic payments to a checking or savings account to avoid any disruptions during a disaster.
 - If you get federal benefits you can sign up by calling 1-800-333-1795 or sign up [online](#) at www.godirect.gov/gpw
 - The Direct Express prepaid debit card is a safe and easy alternative to paper checks. You can sig up at 1-877-212-9991 or [online](#) at www.godirect.gov/gpw



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How Can FEMA Assist You

- Provide individual preparedness training to groups.
- Provide disability etiquette training for volunteers and staff at disaster assistance sites.
- Participate in community preparedness planning.
- After a disaster, FEMA staff at FEMA sponsored sites are prepared and able to assist persons with disabilities via ASL, translators, material printed in larger print, staff to assist with reading the application and paperwork.



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How Can FEMA Assist You

- FEMA deploys Disability Integration Advisors to assist in connecting survivors with unmet needs to local resources.
 - Be an advocate for your needs so staff can assist you.
- FEMA material is printed and distributed in multiple formats.
- FEMA is available to assist with disaster funding if the survivor qualifies for assistance.



Question #24 on FEMA Application

Question #24 on the FEMA application allows an applicant the opportunity to identify if and what type of accommodation is needed to ensure that the applicant's needs are met.

Help for this page ✕

ACCOMMODATION/ACCESS ASSISTANCE

Accommodation or assistance may include, but is not limited to, sign language interpreter, Braille, large print, accessible electronic format, or materials in a language other than English.

FEMA programs may include, but are not limited to, your home inspection, town hall meetings, access to a Disaster Recovery Centers, or accessible temporary housing (if eligible).

Help for this page ✕

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines disability as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual," 42 USC 12102(2)(A). If you or a household member have such a disability, select **Yes**. If yes, check all that apply, or select **Prefer Not to Answer**.

If you or a household member had any disability-related assistive devices or medically required equipment, supplies, or support services damaged, destroyed, lost, or disrupted because of the disaster, select **Yes** and check all that apply.



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Identification

- Explanation
- Personal
- **Language**
- Other Needs
- Phone Numbers
- Address
- County / Parish / Municipio

* Do you have a disability or language need that requires an accommodation to interact with FEMA staff and/or access FEMA programs?

Yes

* What do you need? (please select all that apply)

- Sign language interpreter
- CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation) (in person or remote)
- Text messages to communicate
- Assistive listening device
- Braille
- Large print
- Face-to-face assistance (reader or writer)
- Wheelchair access
- Language other than English
- Other

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Identification

- [Explanation](#)
- [Personal](#)
- [Language](#)
- **Other Needs**
- [Phone Numbers](#)
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* Do you or anyone in your household have a disability that affects your ability to perform activities of daily living or requires an assistive device? (NOTE: An assistive device can include wheelchair, walker, cane, hearing aid, communication device, service animal, personal care attendant, oxygen, dialysis, etc.)

Yes

* Please select from the following the disability that affects your ability to perform activities of daily living (select all that apply):

- Mobility
- Cognitive/Developmental Disabilities/Mental Health
- Hearing or Speech
- Vision
- Self-Care
- Independent Living
- Other
- Prefer Not to Answer

* Did you have any disability-related assistive devices or medically required equipment/supplies/support services damaged, destroyed, lost, or disrupted because of the disaster?

Yes

* What was damaged, destroyed, lost, or disrupted because of the disaster? (select all that apply)

- Power or manual wheelchair
- Scooter
- Prosthesis
- Oxygen or respiratory equipment
- Medical equipment that depends on electricity
- Assistive technology device for hearing or vision, such as hearing aid, screen enlarging software, etc.
- Personal-care devices such as shower bench, bedside commode, Hoyer lift, or lift chair
- Environmental control or alerting devices
- Adaptive van or vehicle
- Walker, cane, or crutches
- Medication or medical supplies including adult diapers and catheters
- Service animal
- Personal assistance services/in-home care
- Dialysis
- Other (If selected, entry box generates)



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Important Documents To Assist with the Recovery Phase

- Family records
- Medical records
- Wills
- Deeds*
- Copy of ID*
- Social security card*
- Homeowners or Renter's Insurance Policy Information*
- Damage Information*
- Charge and bank account information*
- Tax records

***Documents needed to apply for FEMA Assistance**



Recent Changes to FEMA IA Policies

FEMA recently made three immediate steps to reduce access barriers experienced by underserved populations seeking individual assistance after a disaster.

1. Expanding forms of documentation to prove ownership/occupancy for homeowners and renters.
2. Expanding financial assistance for disaster-caused disability
3. Providing expanded housing assistance and other needs assistance funding

These policy changes will apply to disasters declared on or after Aug. 23, 2021.



Expanding Forms of Documentation to Prove Ownership/Occupancy

To confirm occupancy, FEMA will now accept:

- Motor vehicle registrations
- Documentation including letters from local schools (public or private)
- Federal or state benefit providers
- Signed statement from a commercial or mobile home park owner
- Self-certification for mobile homes and travel trailers as a last resort



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Expanding Forms of Documentation Accepted continued

For homeowners, FEMA will now accept:

- Public official's letter
- Receipts for major repairs or improvements
- Survivors with heirship properties, mobile homes or travel trailers who do not have the traditional documentation of ownership, may self-certify ownership as a last resort
- Homeowners with the same address from a previous disaster only need to verify ownership one time.



Expanding Forms of Documentation Accepted continued

- FEMA has also expanded the date of eligible documents from 3 months to 1 year before the disaster.
- FEMA has trained staff to verify documents on site while conducting home inspections. This decreases burden of survivors submitting an appeal by verifying documents during the inspection.



Expanding Financial Assistance for Disaster-Caused Disability

- FEMA is amending its current policy to provide assistance to survivors who incurred a disaster-related disability and now require special components such as ramps or grab bars to make their damaged home safe and functional for them regardless of whether those components were in the survivor's home before the disaster.



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Providing Expanded Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance Funding

- FEMA will now provide a limited amount of financial assistance for renters and homeowners with disaster-caused real property damage that did not render the home uninhabitable through Other Needs Assistance grants. This will help people who typically are not eligible to receive assistance from FEMA to prevent additional losses and address potential health and safety concerns.
- FEMA will now provide financial assistance to repair homes impacted by disaster-caused mold growth.



Conclusion

You should now be able to:

- List key emergency personal preparedness planning in the following areas: sheltering, pet and service animal plan, disaster preparedness kit, family emergency plan, and communication plan.



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Resources

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www.fema.gov

FEMA Helpline

**1-800-621-3362 (711 or Video Relay
Service Available)**

TTY: 1-800-462-7585

www.texasready.gov

www.ready.gov

**Videos (with open captions and
ASL)**

Personal Disaster Preparedness

[I use a Wheelchair](#)

[I am Hard of Hearing](#)

[I am Blind](#)



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Resources

- [Family Emergency Communication Plan \(ready.gov\)](#)
(fillable PDF document)
- [Create Your Family Emergency Communication Plan \(ready.gov\)](#)
(print and complete document)



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