



Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

You Need a Plan!

Emergencies can occur anytime, anywhere. Thousands of Floridians, including elders and individuals with disabilities, face the risk of disaster each year. We are not always prepared.

How will you keep informed? Should you evacuate or stay? Where will you go?

Emergencies include:

- Weather circumstances such as hurricanes, tornadoes, waterspouts, floods, tidal waves, and other sudden changes in weather
- Fires, discharge of toxic gases, widespread power failures
- Nuclear accidents, water system shutdowns, industrial explosions
- Civil disorders, shutdown or delay of transportation systems, and school closings

Emergencies often happen with no warning. We need to plan our actions in advance. Learn about what actions you need to take before, during and after an emergency strikes.

For detailed information on emergency preparedness planning tools, instructions and helpful hints, visit the Disability Topics section of our website.

www.disabilityrightsflorida.org

1-800-342-0823 • Find us on [Facebook](#) • Follow us on [Twitter](#)

How do I register with my county's Special Needs Registry?

Each county's Emergency Management Division maintains a Special Needs Registry. Individuals with disabilities may register with their local Special Needs Registry. The Special Needs Registry helps emergency personnel to understand individual and unique needs and to locate individuals with disabilities in an emergency.

What services does my county offer?

Whether you are on the Special Needs Registry or not, your county may offer helpful services. Services vary from county to county, but may include access to a special needs shelter or transportation from your home to a shelter. Ask your county's Emergency Management Division representative for details. Locate your emergency management officials at http://www.floridadisaster.org/fl_county_em.asp.



What happens to my pet or service animal?

People who have pets are responsible for their health and safety and must have a plan during a disaster that includes those pets. But, now there is help. According to the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006, state and local emergency preparedness plans must address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals. Service animals are not pets. All shelters must allow service animals.

What about my prescription medication refills?

Have your prescription medicines in your disaster survival kit and learn about the "Emergency Prescription Refill" law. This law requires insurance companies to pay for refills, even when you need them early in order to prepare for an emergency, if:

- You are in a county that is currently under a hurricane warning issued by the National Weather Service,
- You are in a county that is declared to be under a state of emergency by executive order of the Governor, or
- Your county has activated its emergency operations center and its emergency management plan.



The information provided herein does not constitute legal representation or advice.