

Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Individuals with sensory, developmental, cognitive, or mobility disabilities may need to take special steps to prepare for an emergency. In addition to all of the information contained within the Louisville [Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide](#), special needs folks and their families should consider additional measures.

Assess Our Community's Risk

Learn about the hazards that are likely to impact Louisville and consider in advance unique requirements for your situation.

Create a Support Network

Create a network of dependable individuals who will assist you during an emergency. Every person in your network should understand the limitations of your disability and should know your emergency plan.

Ready Your Personal Needs Kit

If you will require items in addition to what is recommended for the emergency supply kit, have them ready in case you have to evacuate quickly.

Special Needs Shelter

Louisville has not designated a special needs shelter and there probably will not be one locally available during an emergency. If you relocate to a refuge shelter, make sure the shelter's managers are aware of your needs. Even though it may be embarrassing, consider wearing a easily read name tag or "sign" specifying your disability.

Service Animal

Prepare an evacuation kit for your service animal and make sure the animal wears something that clearly distinguishes it as more than a pet.

Evacuation Devices

If you live in a building that will require a special device for you to be evacuated, insure it is available and those who will use it are trained in advance.

For More Information

American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
<http://www.aamr.org>

The American Red Cross
303.772.7474
www.redcross.org

Disability Preparedness Resource Center
<http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/>

Easter Seals
<http://www.easter-seals.org>

Federal Emergency Management Agency
<http://fema.gov/plan>

Humane Society of the U.S.
<http://www.hsus.org>

National Association of the Deaf
<http://www.nad.org>

National Emergency Management Resource Center
1-888-NEMRC-11
www.nemrc.net

National Organization on Disability/Emergency Preparedness Initiative
www.nod.org/emergency

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
<http://www.ready.gov>

U.S. Department of Justice: Americans with Disabilities Act
www.ada.gov/emergencyprepguide.htm