



People with Special Needs

Preparedness Empowers You It saves lives, property, and time.

Emergencies happen, often with little or no notice. By taking action beforehand you can be prepared for any emergency.

**Be Ready Navy!
I am. Are you?**

If you or someone close to you has a disability or special needs, you should make special preparations in case of an emergency. Those with physical disabilities could have increased complications during an evacuation. Those with visual, hearing, or mental disabilities may be especially fearful and reluctant to leave familiar surroundings. Others with medical conditions may be dependent on devices or medications that need to travel with them. To adequately prepare for every possible emergency situation, consider making the following arrangements.

How to Prepare

- Be **informed** of any hazards.
- Check for hazards in your home and workplace.
- Make the necessary preparations and know what needs to happen during an emergency.
- Make a written **emergency plan**.
- Discuss your needs with family members, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Know more than one location of a medical facility that provides the services you need.
- Have a list with the types and models of any equipment or devices you need.
- Make sure those around you know how to operate any necessary equipment.
- Build an **emergency kit**.
- Inventory what you use every day to live independently. Identify the essential things that you will need to be able to survive for 3 to 5 days or longer, if people cannot get to you.
- Add any necessary supplies such as wheelchair batteries, catheters, oxygen, medication, food for service animals, or other special supplies to your emergency kit.
- Do not assume that you or your loved one has been factored into an evacuation plan.
- If you are physically disabled, study the evacuation plan of any building from which you might evacuate. If necessary, know if and where an Evacuation Chair (EVAC+CHAIR) is located, and make sure someone knows how to operate it.
- Prepare any instructions you need to give rescuers or others who may be around you. Use concise verbal directions, or carry written instructions with you at all times.

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Preparing your Workplace for an Emergency

- Become a member of your office emergency preparedness team. You best know your needs before, during, and after an emergency.
- Know all emergency exits and ramp locations.
- Ensure that emergency **notification systems** and procedures have been established to accommodate your needs, i.e. sound-based systems for visual impairments, text-based systems for auditory impairments, or simple cues for cognitive impairments.
- If you require help evacuating the building, **create and practice a plan** with a designated support team.
- Have a “**Go Kit**” with you at work with essential items you would need if you had to evacuate.
- **Identify an area** where public safety officials can assist you in any building you visit regularly.

During an Emergency

- If told to evacuate, do so if it is possible with the help of others.
- If you are unable to evacuate, wait where you are for rescuers.
- Take your emergency kit, including any necessary items, with you.
- Stay as calm as possible to be a help to those around you.
- Once you are in a safe place, muster with your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

After a Declared Emergency

- After a declared emergency, register your needs with the Navy through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) at <https://navyfamily.navy.mil> or call 1-877-414-5358 or 1-866-297-1971 (TDD).

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disability Issues and the Health Professions (CDIHP)—
www.cdihp.org/evacuation/emergency_evacuation.pdf
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov) & FEMA—
 - » <http://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>
 - » www.fema.gov/pdf/library/pfd_all.pdf