



Hearing Impairments

Emergency Planning for Individuals with Hearing Impairments

- ❑ Remind friends that you cannot completely hear warnings or emergency instructions. Ask them to be your source of emergency information as it comes over the radio.
- ❑ Purchase a "Special Needs NOAA Weather Radio," with visual and vibrating alarms and simple text readouts of warning information. Accessories include a pillow vibrator, strobe alarm, or bed shaker to wake you if you are sleeping when a warning is issued.
- ❑ Ensure that you are registered to receive text and email alerts on your mobile communication devices or PDAs. Use Twitter as a source of current disaster information.
- ❑ Ensure that you have an adequate backup supply of any special equipment and supplies, such as hearing aid batteries.
- ❑ Install special strobe-enabled smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- ❑ When you dial 911 (or local emergency number), tap the space bar to indicate a TDD call.
- ❑ Store a writing pad and pencils to communicate with others.
- ❑ Keep a flashlight handy to signal your whereabouts to other people and for illumination to aid in communication.
- ❑ Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to identify any disabilities or medical conditions.

If you have a service animal:

- ❑ Be aware that the animal may become disoriented in an emergency. Disasters often mask or confuse scent markers that are part of your service animal's normal means of navigation. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. Be prepared to use alternative methods to negotiate your environment.
- ❑ Trained service animals will be allowed to stay in emergency shelters with their owners. Check with your local emergency management office or American Red Cross officials for more information.
- ❑ If you have a guide dog, train the dog to know one or two alternate routes out of your home or office. A guide dog familiar with the building may help you and others find a way out when no one else can see.
- ❑ Be sure your service animal has identification and your phone numbers attached to its collar, including emergency contact information through a national pet locator service.
- ❑ Have a complete Pet Emergency Kit with food and water, medical records and identification, bowls, extra leash, a favorite toy, and a pet first aid kit.