





Health Information and Education Center

Disaster Planning for Families with Special Needs



Modified with permission from FIFI Florida Institute for Family Involvement



The time to prepare for a disaster is **BEFORE** it happens. Disaster can happen at anytime or anyplace. Are you prepared for a blizzard, flood, tornado or bioterrorism disaster. Use this checklist to assist you in making sure that you have done everything possible to prepare for a disaster and prevent serious outcomes, should one hit your community.







Your Child with Special Needs

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- ✓ Do you have a current care plan from your child's physician?
 - ✓ Do you have an emergency information form filled out on your child?
 - ✓ If you have an emergency form, where is the copy? Be sure to place it where you can remember it quickly (in a ziplock bag in the freezer may be an option) Do others also have a copy of this information?
 - ✓ Do you have a two week supply of medications and supplies for your child?
 - ✓ Do you have back up systems or plans for medical equipment that requires electricity?
 - ✓ Have you discussed with your child's doctor the best place for him/her in the event there is a disaster?
 - ✓ Is your local emergency management team aware that you have a child with special needs and familiar with those needs?
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Your family

- ✓ Does your family have a disaster plan?
 - ✓ Do you have a disaster supply kit for your family?
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- √Have you designated and shared the “meeting” place should your family be separated during a disaster?
- √Have you shared the central point of contact for other family and friends to check on your family's safety?
- √Have you discussed disasters and preparation with your children and shared information on common disasters?
- √Have you shown your small children pictures of emergency workers common to disaster scenes (such as workers in uniform, in fire suits, and workers wearing protective face gear)?
- √Have you made plans for your pets?

Your Home

- √Have you checked your home for material and items that might pose a hazard during a disaster? (Don't forget the outside!)
- √Have you located and learned how to turn on and off utilities such as gas and electricity?
- √Have you installed and checked smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home?
- √Does your home have necessary resources such as hose, fire extinguishers, etc?
- √Have you developed a plan with your neighbors on how you will assist one another should a disaster hit your community?

To contact FVND call 888-522-9654, www.geocities.com/ndfv/ or write PO Box 163 Edgeley, ND 58433

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