

Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities: Impact Areas of Disasters



UCCEDD

University of Cincinnati Center for
Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

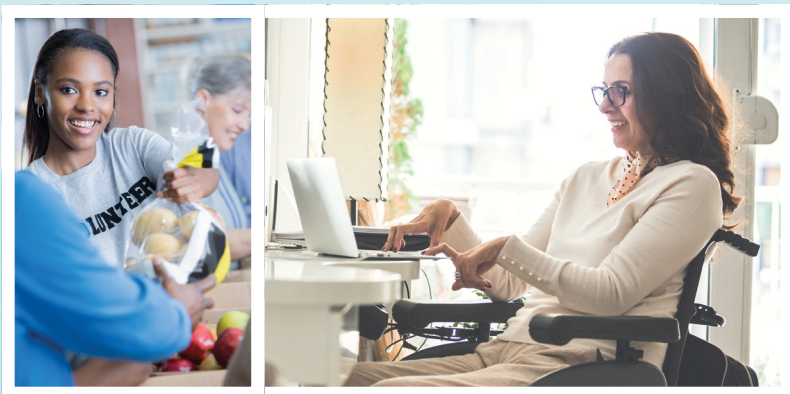


Did you know?

- Ohio is home to over 1.6 million individuals with disabilities who are not currently residing in an institutional setting. This accounts for 14% of the total population.
- Most of the emergency managers are not trained to support special needs populations
- After situations of an emergency/disaster, institutionalization of an individual with paralysis may occur unless proper planning is accomplished beforehand.
- Beneficial steps for the disability community include persons with disabilities developing individual and disability specific preparedness plans and getting involved in local level disaster planning.

Why is it important to prepare?

- Functional needs require extra planning
- What is familiar becomes unfamiliar!
- Emergency situations are stressful (physically/emotionally)
- We cannot always rely on others



10 Impact Areas of Disasters

Communication

- Alternative Communication Strategies
 - Texting
 - Social Media messaging
 - Email

Transportation

- What if your caregiver uses public transportation?
- How will you travel if public transportation is unavailable?

Water and Waste Water

- Plan for one gallon of water per person per day and consider special needs (food, medication, etc.)
- Store water safely in a place where you can access it by yourself
- Have water on hand for waste water. Consider filling a bathtub in advance of water shut off.

Medical

- Plan for two weeks of medicine on hand. Early refills and samples help you to keep an emergency supply.
- Pay attention to expiration dates and remember to rotate!



Food

- Keep food on hand that you actually like!
- Store food that you can transport easily that you can open without electricity (canned goods)
- Pay attention to expiration dates and remember to rotate!

Utilities

- Know how to turn off the utilities at your house
- Turn off electricity in case of a flood

Fires

- Get out! The best reaction to a fire is to get out to a safe place
- Be familiar with using a fire extinguisher
- Alternate routes: Find the stairs and practice using different exits

Hazardous Material Spills

- Find out how you will be notified of a hazardous spill (alerts)
- Go inside IMMEDIATELY and stay there (don't forget your pets!)

High Wind

- Sign up for alerts and purchase a NOAA radio
- Prepare backup power (generator, battery pack)
- Remember, outdoor warning sirens are only for people who are outdoors

Extreme Weather

- Prepare with plenty of towels and blankets to keep warm and block out cold drafts
- Find locations where you can go that will likely have back up electricity (including family and friends)
- Prepare your vehicle with emergency items ahead of time in case of being stranded

How Can I Receive Alerts?



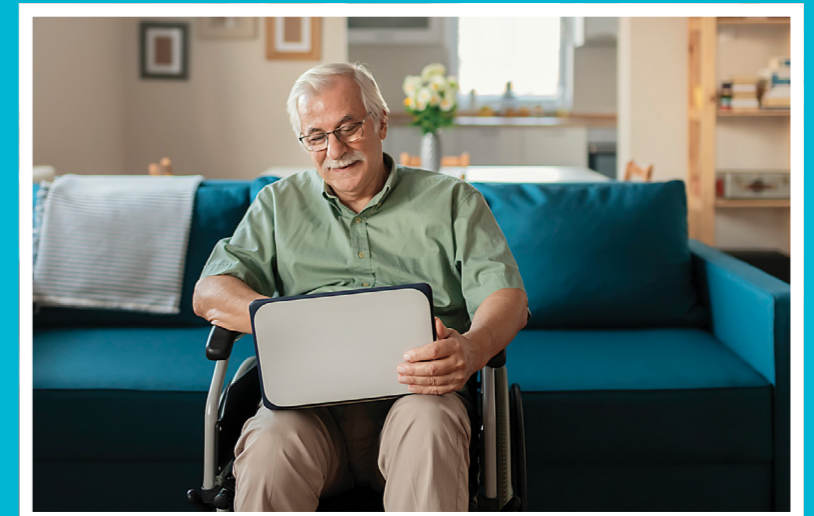
- NOAA radios
- County alert
- Cell Phone apps
- Local broadcast news TV/Radio
- Social media
- Neighbors
- Sirens



Smart911

Allows you to provide critically important information to 9-1-1 call takers BEFORE an emergency happens. Smart911 Safety Profiles are only as helpful as YOU make them. Profiles can include:

- Medical Information
- Family Information (Don't Forget Pets!)
- Contact Information
- Vehicle Information



Regional Resources:

www.alerthc.org: If you live or work in Hamilton County, Ohio. Get Emergency Alerts for Severe weather, Safety, Health, Utility Disruptions, Major Traffic Accidents, and Community Alerts

<https://bit.ly/DisabilityPreparedness>: A video discussing how to: Prepare for the impacts of disasters, create an emergency plan with the assistance of a caregiver, and understand the necessary steps for Sheltering In Place, Community Sheltering, and Evacuating. Additional content includes a discussion with an individual who has Cerebral Palsy and his caregiver about their strategy for preparation.

FEMA Resources:

www.ready.gov: Fillable plans & cards available online that help you collect important information so that it is in one easy-to-find location.

www.ready.gov/disability: For individuals with disabilities or those with access and functional needs. You will find specific tips and helpful instruction about emergency preparedness.

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