



Got A Plan?

FAAST's Emergency Preparedness Self-Help List of Weblinks, Videos, Articles and Other Helpful Information

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1. The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** advises preplanning. "Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another. Think about how you will communicate in different situations.

Complete a contact card for each family member. Have family members keep these cards handy in a wallet, purse, backpack, etc. You may want to send one to school with each child to keep on file. Pick a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify they are safe.

Family Communications Plan which should be completed and posted so the contact information is readily accessible to all family members. A copy should also be included in your family disaster supplies kit."

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/appendix_c.pdf

The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** has important information regarding emergency management preparedness for individuals with disabilities at:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/specialplans.shtm>.

Are you Ready? provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through how to get informed about local emergency plans, how to identify hazards that affect their local area, and how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and disaster supplies kit.

<http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/index.shtm>

Telephone: 1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362) / TTY (800) 462-7585

2. **Disaster Ready**

For a comprehensive 83 page planning guide for persons with disabilities, go to: <http://www.fddc.org/sites/default/files/file/publications/Disaster%20Preparedness%20%20Guide.pdf>.

3. **ADA Guide for Local Governments**

Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities: <http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprep.htm>

4. To contact the **Florida Division of Emergency Management** go to: <http://www.floridadisaster.org>.

Emergencies Only: 1-800-320-0519 / (850) 413-9911

Non-Emergencies: (850) 413-9900

The Florida Division of Emergency Management website offers resources and information specifically tailored for individuals with disabilities/special needs and their families to help prepare for emergencies, protect themselves and be survivors. For information, go to: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/disability/index.html>

To find the **Emergency Preparedness Management** office closest to you within your county go to: http://www.floridadisaster.org/fl_county_em.asp.

5. **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. For more information, go to: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>.

6. **What is the FCC's Emergency Alert System (EAS)?**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designed the [Emergency Alert System](http://www.fcc.gov/eb/eas/) (EAS) (<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/eas/>) so officials can quickly send out important emergency information targeted to a specific area. After conducting extensive tests of competing technologies, the FCC ruled that the EAS would be a digital-based automated system and use coding protocols similar to [NOAA Weather Radio](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/) (NWR) (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/> [Specific Area Message Encoding](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrsame.htm) (SAME) <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrsame.htm>).

EAS sends out alerts not just to broadcast media but also to cable television, satellites, pagers, Direct Broadcast Satellite, High Definition Television, and Video Dial Tone. EAS also accounts for the needs of special populations such as the deaf and those with special language requirements. In 1996, EAS replaced the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS).

7. General information on how **NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)** can be an alerting tool for individuals who are hard of hearing or deaf can be found at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/special_need.htm.

To find the latest weather forecasts around the USA, **track storms through NOAA weather satellites**, get the latest weather maps and learn how to protect yourself and your community from severe weather go to: <http://www.noaawatch.gov/>.

8. The **American Red Cross** has information on their website regarding emergency disaster response and preparedness. Go to: <http://www.redcross.org/>.

Toll-Free Phone: 1 800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

To view a **Red Cross video** on people with disabilities and disaster preparation, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJQr40wJ5MA&feature=related>

9. To find the **Florida Department of Health's** information on emergency preparedness, go to their website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>. Select the search function and type "emergency preparedness."

10. The **Florida Courts** website has a [**Guide on the Special Needs of People with Disabilities for Emergency Managers, Planners & Responders**](#). To view this guide, to go:

http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/emergency/bin/epiguide2004.pdf#xml=http://search.flcourts.org/tehis/search/pdfhi.txt?query=emergency+preparedness&pr=external&prox=page&rorder=500&rprox=500&rdfreq=500&rwfreq=500&rlead=500&rdepth=0&sufs=0&order=r&cq=&id=4b719405778

11. **Video conference services for individuals with deafness in hurricane shelters**

<http://cilsfla.blogspot.com/2008/05/videoconferencing-services-available.html>

Deaf Link's website: <http://www.deaflink.com/>

12. Westcot Portable Emergency Beds for Individuals with Disabilities

<http://www.emergencyresources.com/westcot400.html>

13. Software for police, fire departments, and officials manning shelters to communicate with individuals with deafness

<http://www.vcom3d.com/index.php?id=ssstudio>

14. For a suggested list of items to bring to **Special Needs Shelters**, go to <http://www.bradford-co-fla.org/emergency%20man/What%20to%20Bring.pdf>.

15. Go to www.ready.gov to learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and your families in case of an emergency.

16. For comprehensive emergency management planning criteria for **Hospice**, go to www.doh.state.fl.us/PHNursing/SpNS/FAC58A-2.026.doc.

17. What should I know about pets?

According to the [Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act \(PETS\) of 2006](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h109-3858) (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h109-3858>) state and local emergency preparedness operational plans must address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency if they want to qualify for grant money from FEMA. The Act gives FEMA authority to help communities develop pet-friendly shelter facilities and practical assistance for individuals with pets and service animals, and the animals themselves, following a major disaster. The PETS Act does away with all the excuses from county and city governments without pet-friendly disaster plans. For more information, go to: http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stusfd2006pl109_308.htm.

Go to <http://www.floridapets.net/petfriendlyshelters.html> for a county-by-county list of pet-friendly motels and hotels. This site also gives updates about pet-friendly shelters. *Remember, your service animal is not a pet and is allowed in all shelters.*

18. Go to www.myflorida.com for information on emergency preparedness management in general. In the search function of this website, type “emergency preparedness.”