

Should I Register?

The answer is “Yes” if you have no other place to go and need:

- ✓ Assistance with medication
- ✓ Observation by a health professional
- ✓ Electricity for life supporting medical equipment
- ✓ Basic Nursing care
- ✓ Oxygen therapy
- ✓ Assistance to evacuate

Don't wait until there is an emergency

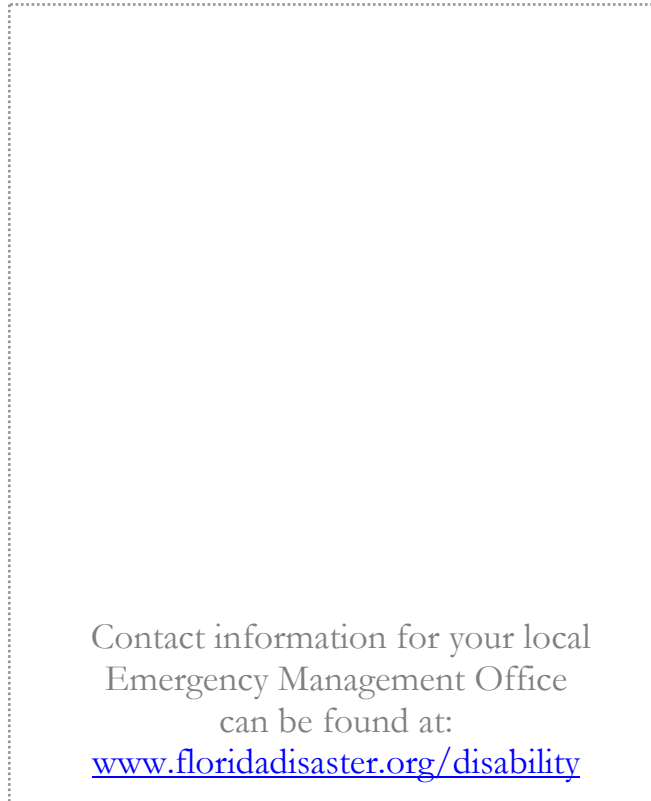
Pre-registering will ensure that you have a back-up plan. If you can stay with family or friends or at a hotel out of the emergency area, you should.

If you have no other sheltering option, pre-register and be prepared to go to the Special Needs Shelter. Please bring medical supplies and current medications to support your medical needs. Your caregiver is also welcome.

How do I Register?

Find out now if you qualify and what you need to bring with you in the event of an emergency.

For more information or to pre-register, contact your local emergency management office:



Special Needs Shelters

What persons with special medical needs should know



Produced in partnership by the
Florida Department of Health and
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What is a Special Needs Shelter?

A Special Needs Shelter is a place to go, when you have no other sheltering option. It is a *shelter of last resort* and should only be used as a back-up to your personal sheltering plan.

A Special Needs Shelter provides more care and supervision than a general shelter to help meet your special needs during an evacuation.

To the extent possible under emergency conditions, the Special Needs Shelter will provide a safe sheltering environment and basic assistance to maintain your level of health.

Service animals are allowed. Their care is the responsibility of the owner.

What Should I Expect?

A Special Needs Shelter does not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor does it provide the level of care found in a medical facility.

A shelter may be in a school or other public facility. It may be crowded, noisy and boring. You can expect the following:

- ✓ Food and water. If you want or need special food, you must bring it with you. Food must be non-perishable.
- ✓ Basic medical assistance and monitoring. Complex medical equipment or care is not available.
- ✓ An area for you and your caregiver to sleep.
- ✓ Back-up electricity for light and essential medical equipment.

Am I Eligible?

The answer is “You may be” if:

- ✓ You have special medical needs but do not require hospitalization.
- ✓ You cannot be accommodated in a regular shelter.
- ✓ You need assistance with basic everyday tasks.
- ✓ You have a chronic condition that requires assistance.



Check with Your Local Emergency Management Office to determine if you are eligible.