



During a Hurricane call the Florida Emergency Information Line:

(Durante un huracán llame telefonos de la informacion de Emergencia de la Florida:)

Florida Emergency Information Line

TOLL FREE HOTLINE

1 (800) 342-3557

The Florida Emergency Information Line is a toll-free hotline (**llame gratis**) activated by the Department of Community Affairs / Division of Emergency Management (**División de Administración de Emergencias de La Florida**) at the time of an emergency. You can get information on road closures and alternate routes, available/open shelters, shelters designed for special needs patients and re-entry information once it is safe to return to the affected area.

They also provide a website which links to an on-line shelter status database. Here you can see up-to-date information on public shelters by county - including special needs shelters. http://www.floridadisaster.org/citizen_emergency_info.htm

Disaster typically gives little warning – Prepare now.

Before a Hurricane:

(Antes de un huracán:)

The State of Florida, through the Department of Health, has created a Family Preparedness Guide that outlines steps for making a Family Plan and Supply Kit for Disasters and Emergencies. It includes advice about special-needs family members and children. The pull-out section also includes contact numbers for county information and support.

“family preparedness guide” :

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/rw_webmaster/prepareenglish042.pdf

“guía de preparación para familias” (Spanish):

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/rw_webmaster/preparesp04.pdf

“gid pou prepare fanmi nou” (Creole):

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/rw_webmaster/preparecreole04.pdf

The Family Preparedness Guides are available online at the web addresses listed above. The following page contains important pieces of information excerpted from the Family Preparedness Guides.



Those who have family members with special needs must take extra measures to ensure their preparedness. The following are suggestions from the American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Families with special needs must carefully assess their options. They should ask themselves the following questions:

- Can we manage the entire needs of our family for three days with little or no outside assistance?
- Can we meet any crisis or emergency on our own for that period of time?
- Can we make decisions concerning our special needs without consultation or help for three days?
- Do we have the supplies and equipment to meet our special needs for three days?

If the answer is “no” to any of the above questions, families must seriously consider evacuation from their homes in the event of a disaster. Advance preparation should include how to evacuate and where to relocate. Many areas have “special needs shelters” that are equipped with medical staff and specialized equipment. In your preparation, check the shelters in your area and become familiar with their locations, procedures and policies concerning how many people are allowed to accompany the family member with special needs.

For more information about shelters before a disaster, call your local Red Cross office, or contact your local county emergency management office to pre-register for a special needs shelter. See the Family Preparedness Guide’s center pull-out section for helpful county phone numbers.

SUPPLIES TO CONSIDER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS

- for respirators, other electric-dependent medical equipment or oxygen—make prior arrangements with your physician or check with your oxygen supplier about emergency plans
- two-week stock of disposable supplies such as dressings, nasal cannulas, suction catheters, etc.
- two-week supply of medications, prescription and non-prescription
- electrical backup for medical equipment
- copies of prescriptions for medical equipment, supplies and medications—ask your physician or pharmacist about proper storing of prescription medications
- contact lenses and supplies or extra eyeglasses
- extra batteries for hearing aids, communication

Assemble a kit for your children. Some suggested items:

- few books, crayons and paper, puzzles, deck of cards
- favorite small toy or a stuffed animal
- favorite blanket, pillow
- pictures of family and pets

Children’s immunizations should be up-to date as early in life as possible to protect from vaccine-preventable diseases, including an unexpected outbreak during a disaster.

- Keep a copy of your children’s complete immunization histories in your disaster kit attached to the family emergency information.
- All family members should also record the date of their last Tetanus-diphtheria shot in this record.

Advice on communicating with children about Disasters is available from the American Academy Of Pediatrics at www.aap.org.