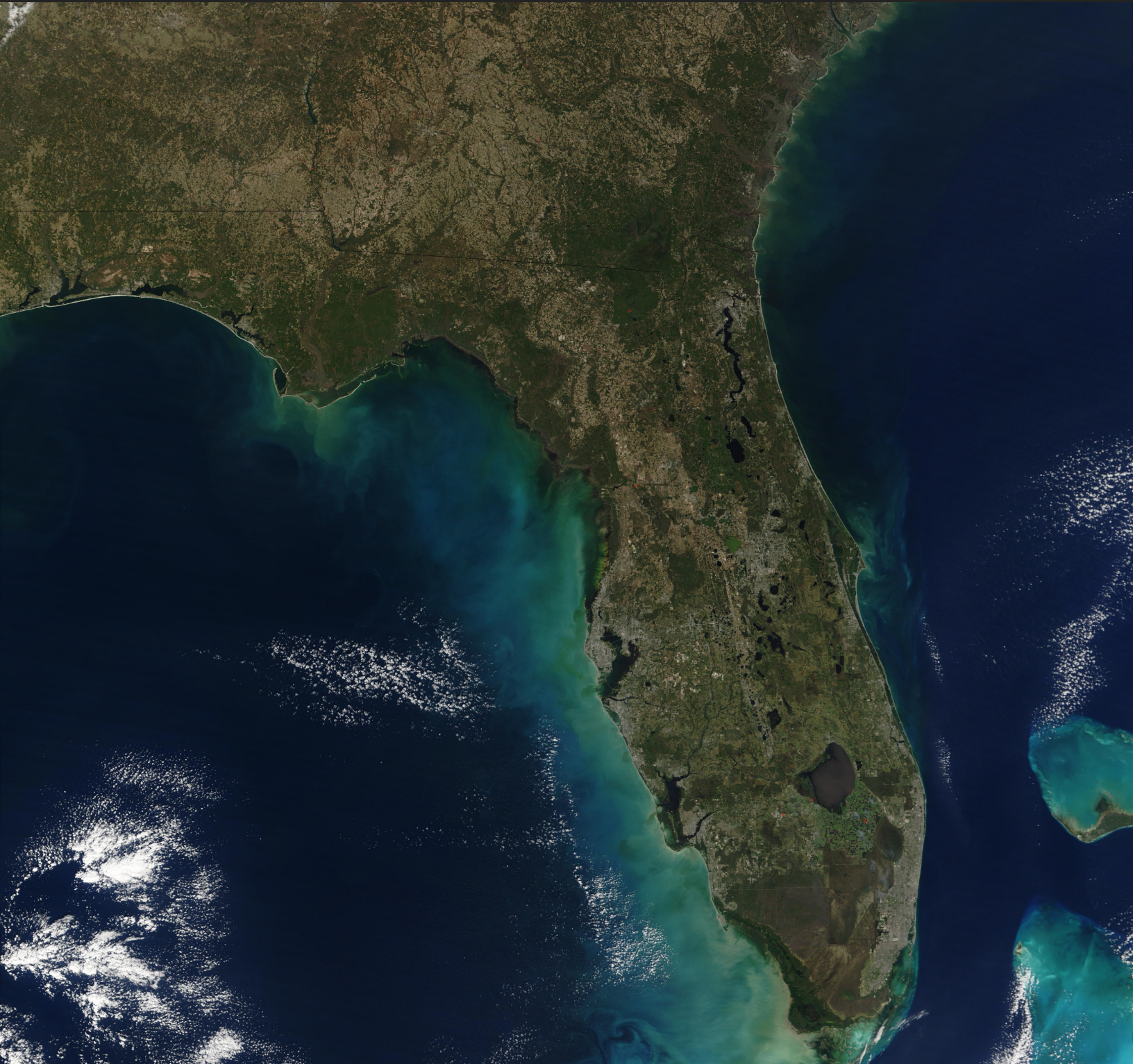


# DISASTER READY

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR  
FLORIDIANS WITH DISABILITIES



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

# DISASTER READY

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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR FLORIDIANS WITH DISABILITIES

**DISASTER READY** was developed by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council in partnership with the Florida Commission on Community Service, Volunteer Florida.

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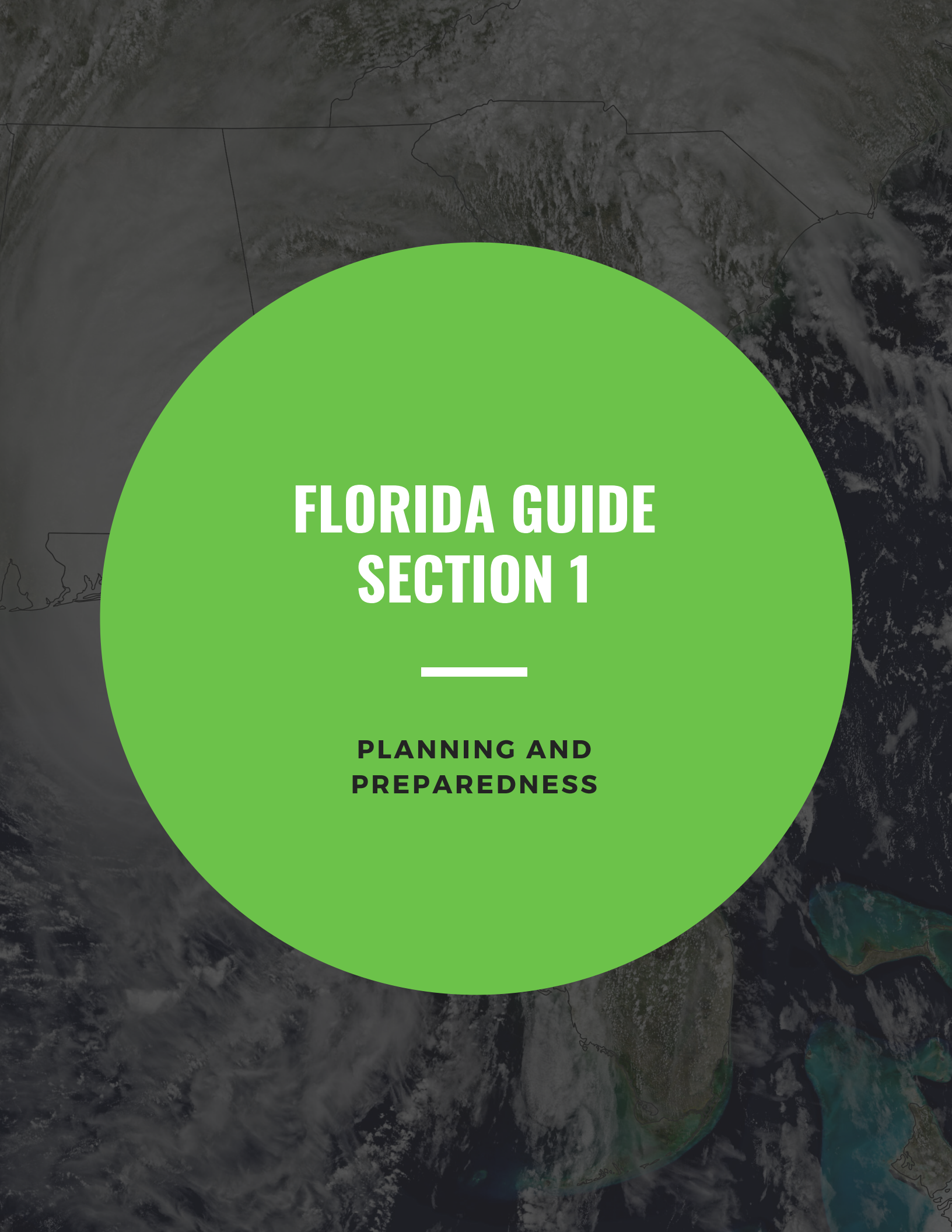




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A satellite map of Florida and the surrounding Gulf of Mexico is shown in a dark, muted color palette. A large, solid green circle is centered over the state of Florida, serving as a background for the title text.

# **FLORIDA GUIDE SECTION 1**

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**PLANNING AND  
PREPAREDNESS**

# INTRODUCTION

This guide can help anyone prepare for a disaster. However, it specifically includes information that is important for people who have disabilities, including developmental disabilities. The guide is for people who live on their own or with family or friends. It is not intended for use by individuals who live in group care facilities. Such facilities are required to develop their own disaster plans to protect their residents' safety.

**Disaster Ready** is based on three important themes:

1. We must take responsibility for our own personal and family preparedness, to the extent possible. People have varying needs, abilities, and resources, and there is no one-size-fits-all disaster plan. Individuals and families should assess their own needs, learn about and choose among options available in their communities, and prepare in advance for a possible disaster.
2. Most decisions about how to prepare for and respond to disasters are made on the local level, so each family must understand their county's emergency management plan and the provisions made for people with disabilities in their area.
3. **Disaster planning** uses strategies that are common to all types of public emergencies and disasters. This is called the **all-hazards approach**: You plan only once, and you are able to apply your plan to all types of hazards.

This guide provides a basic introduction to disaster planning. It is not meant to replace the advice of professionals such as emergency management authorities and medical providers.

**Note:** The glossary that begins on page 45 provides definitions of the terms that have been highlighted in **teal** in this guide, along with other terms commonly used by the disaster preparedness community. Also, the terms "public emergency" and "disaster" are both used in this guide, in recognition that an event that begins as a public emergency may or may not develop into a full-scale disaster.

## Quick Start for Personal Disaster Plan

If you are already familiar with disaster preparedness, you may want to begin working on your plan right away. If so, please at least briefly review the material in this guide, beginning on page 15. Then move directly to the enclosed Personal Disaster Plan.





## PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You may never be directly affected by a disaster. But if you are, you will want to stay as safe and comfortable as possible during the event itself— and in the days that follow, when emergency personnel may still be working to clear roads and restore utilities and other services. Life may not get back to normal for days, weeks, or even months after a disaster.

The best way to make sure that you stay safe is to get ready for an emergency long before it happens. This involves making decisions (planning) and following up those decisions with action (preparation). For example, should you plan to stay at home or will you go to a friend's house or to a shelter? What kind of transportation will you use? What supplies do you need to have available? How will you receive disaster warnings? How will you communicate with rescuers and others? How will you contact your family and/or care providers?

There are many good reasons to plan and prepare now for a possible disaster:

- **The effects of disasters are felt directly by individuals and families.** State and local governments and organizations do plan and practice large-scale responses to disasters and other emergencies. However, those plans will never be able to take into account the specific needs of each of Florida's 18 million residents. To be prepared, you must assess your own situation and implement disaster plans that address your unique needs and preferences.
- **Disasters happen unexpectedly.** In some cases, there is warning of a threat or danger. For example, a hurricane is usually tracked for several days before it hits land. However, in other cases there is little or no warning. You may hear over the radio that tornados have been spotted in your area and may strike within the hour. A chemical spill or other hazard may occur with no warning at all.
- **Most people prefer to make decisions and choices that are best for them.** However, your options will be limited once a disaster occurs. Without advance planning, you may have little choice, for example, about where to stay or what method of transportation to use. Preparation is especially important for people with disabilities because they may need to do extra research and make specialized arrangements. Planning can help you retain as much control over your situation as possible.



## GETTING STARTED

This guide can help you understand your options, identify your needs, make decisions and prepare for a potential disaster resulting from a **hurricane, flood, tornado**, earthquake, bombing or other attack, chemical spill, or nuclear power accident. Even though this book is not about personal emergencies such as a fire at your home, school, or workplace, your disaster plan may help you prepare for that type of danger as well.


There are several steps in disaster preparation:

1. Developing a complete and practical disaster plan that addresses your needs—including communication, evacuation and transportation, and disaster supplies.
2. Putting your plan into action: collecting supplies; conferring with doctors and service providers, if necessary; gathering information; and making decisions about evacuation and sheltering options.
3. Informing friends, family members, and support workers about your plan.
4. Practicing your plan.

This book will help you take that first step—developing a personalized disaster plan.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Disaster Ready** has two parts:

- This Florida Guide provides information about emergency management, disaster supply kits, evacuation, communication, personal support networks, and more. You will find Taking Stock worksheets that you may complete. They include questions about assistive devices, medicine and health care supplies, mobility and transportation, communication, and the people and animals that help you be more independent. These worksheets will allow you to evaluate your needs so you can develop a plan that responds to those needs—and reflects your wishes. Make your responses as detailed as possible, but skip any questions that don't apply to you.
- A blank Personal Disaster Plan has been enclosed with this guide. It leads you through the process of preparing for and responding to a disaster. You will use the information provided in this guide and your responses on the Taking Stock worksheets to create your own Personal Disaster Plan. 

Of course, having a plan is not the same as actually being prepared. Store necessary supplies. Make arrangements with people whose help you will need. Practice the steps you have identified. Review your plan every 6 months and revise it when needed.

Your plan will help you control what happens to you during a public emergency or disaster.

### If You Need Help to Plan and Prepare

Many people work with family members, friends, and service providers to develop their disaster plans. If you would like additional help in developing your Personal Disaster Plan, contact the Center for Independent Living (CIL) in your community. CILs are nonprofit organizations that provide services to help people with disabilities maintain their independence.

Look in your local telephone directory for the Center for Independent Living near you. You may also visit [www.floridacils.org](http://www.floridacils.org) or call 850-575-6004. Contact information for the regional CILs appears on pages 54-56 of this book.





## EFFECTS OF DISASTERS

Basic services, transportation, communication, and other aspects of modern life can be disrupted for days, weeks, or even months after a disaster. For example, after a hurricane:

- Roads and sidewalks may be blocked or damaged. Road signs and traffic signals may be gone. Cars and buses may not be able to travel the roads. Flooding may make it too dangerous to leave the area. You may not be able to get to stores, school, the doctor's office, or a friend's house. Your friends, family members, and caregivers may not be able to get to your home.
- Stores may be closed. You may not be able to buy supplies or gas for your car. You may not be able to get money from your bank or automated teller machine (ATM).
- Objects may fall off the walls and break, or furniture may move around, blocking your movement inside your home. Windows may break, letting in rain and wind. You may have to get out of your home because of fire or other dangers. Your home may be so damaged you cannot live in it.
- You may not have electricity or natural gas service, running water, or functioning toilets. You may not be able to cook or to cool or heat your home. Your lights, television, computer, and other electricity-dependent equipment may not function.
- Telephone and cell phone service may not be available, so you may not be able to contact friends, family, doctors, or caregivers.
- You may have to stay at the home of family or friends or in a shelter for several days.
- Especially during the first 72 hours of a disaster, services like police, ambulances, public transportation, and agency caregivers may not be able to work the way they usually do.

Keep these possible effects in mind as you develop your disaster plan— especially as you make choices such as whether or not to evacuate and which communication methods you will rely on.

### Individual Considerations

Although disasters are mostly unpredictable, you can probably make some educated guesses about what type of disaster is most likely to affect you. If you live near the coast, you probably expect to be in the path of a hurricane at some point. If your home lies in a flood plain, you are probably concerned about rising waters during severe storms. If you live near a manufacturing facility or power plant, you may be concerned about an industrial accident.



You may also be able to predict which types of emergencies are most likely to make it hard for you to meet your own needs. For example, if you rely on electrical equipment for your independence, you may be most concerned about a storm that would leave your neighborhood without electricity for several days. On the other hand, if you have chemical sensitivities or breathing difficulties, you may be more worried about the possibility of a chemical spill or leak.

As you develop your Personal Disaster Plan, find out what types of disasters are most likely in your area. Evaluate how disaster-resistant your home is. Most importantly, consider your own specific disabilities and needs. Even someone who is completely independent in daily life may face significant obstacles to safety and comfort during a disaster. Given this fact, the American Red Cross recommends that people with disabilities make disaster plans with their lowest anticipated level of functioning in mind.

You will need to evaluate your own functioning and independence level and how you might be affected by a disaster. Consider how your needs may be similar to or may combine aspects of the concerns identified below.

**Physical/Mobility:** If your home is damaged or furniture is knocked over, how will you move around your home and how will you get out of your home safely if you need to? If there is an extended power outage, how long will the batteries for your wheelchair, ventilator, or suctioning device provide power?

**Vision:** How will you get to a public shelter or other safe place if you need to evacuate? What if public transportation is not available? How will the disaster affect your service animal? Do you have a plan in the event your **service animal** is injured? What will you do if your service animal is unable to assist you as usual?

**Hearing:** How will you get updated information about weather or other conditions, evacuation orders, etc.? How will you communicate with rescuers who don't know sign language? How will you contact relatives or friends if there is an interruption in telephone service that prevents you from using a TTY? Do you have extra batteries for your portable communication device? If you need to go to a public shelter, will an American Sign Language interpreter be there to assist you?

**Communication/Speech:** How will you communicate with rescuers or shelter staff to let them know your needs? Do you have a communication device that uses batteries? How will you make sure people understand you if your communication device is not working?

**Cognitive:** Who will give you information about a potential disaster? Who will help you understand disaster warnings, safety instructions, evacuation orders, and other important information? What will you do if that person is not able to assist you?

**Social/Emotional/Behavioral/Mental Health:** How are you likely to respond to an emergency situation? What do you do to avoid stress, anxiety, boredom or interruption in your daily routine? How would this be available in an emergency?

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require states or counties to have separate, formal emergency plans for people with disabilities. However, ADA does require public agencies, employers, and public accommodations and services operated by private entities to include people with disabilities and activity limitations in their policies and procedures. Therefore, local governments must make their disaster preparedness and response services accessible to people with activity limitations and other disabilities (Cantos, January 2008).

At the state level, emergency management powers are designated under Chapter 252.35, Florida Statutes. This statute requires there to be a statewide plan for emergency management. The state Division of Emergency Management is responsible for that plan, but many agencies and organizations participate in various aspects of disaster planning and response, such as the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Families, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Department of Elder Affairs.

It is important to note that, in Florida, city and county governments make most decisions about local emergency procedures and disaster response. This includes decisions about programs such as emergency shelters, emergency transportation assistance, and First Responder services. As a result, Floridians need to have accurate information about their local emergency management plans.

The U.S. Department of Justice provides guidance for state and local governments on including people with disabilities and activity limitations in disaster planning and response.

[www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)

Information about state-level disaster planning and response is available.

[www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

Begin to learn more about your county's preparedness activities. [www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability/disability-shelters](http://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability/disability-shelters)

## MAKING THE DECISION TO REMAIN AT HOME OR EVACUATE

One very important part of disaster planning is deciding where you should stay during a public emergency or disaster and for at least a few days afterwards, if necessary.

Will you stay

- at home?
- with a family member or friend who does not live in the disaster area?
- at a hotel or other location outside the disaster area?
- at a public shelter?

Base your decision on two main considerations:

1. What is happening during the event? Has an evacuation order been issued? Is there a danger of flooding? Are local roads closed or soon to be closed?
2. Where will you be safe and have your needs met?

Your Personal Disaster Plan will reflect whether your first choice is to remain at home or to evacuate. However, circumstances may make your first choice unsafe, so you must have a back-up plan. For example, even if you would prefer to remain at home, if your neighborhood is placed under an evacuation order, you should leave your home. It is important to prepare for all possibilities.

To stay at home safely, you may need to make your home more disaster-resistant. For more information, visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org), hover over “Plan and Prepare” and select “Planning for Your Home”.



## Remaining at Home

Many people would prefer to remain at home during a disaster, if possible. There are steps you can take to increase your ability to remain at home safely. However, this choice must be made on the basis of “safety first.” Below are some sample guidelines to help you decide whether or not it would be safe for you to remain in your home in the event of a threatening hurricane or other severe storm. These are just examples. A different type of disaster might require a whole different set of considerations.

Plan to remain at home only if all of these things are true:

- An evacuation order has not been issued for your neighborhood.
- You can maintain your health and safety in your home even if you lose power or other services such as telephone or Internet.
- Your home is relatively safe:
  - It was built to current Florida building code.
  - It is not a mobile or manufactured home.
  - It is not in a location that makes it vulnerable to storm surge or inland flooding.
- You have reduced the threat of falling trees by removing dead branches.
- You have reduced the effects of high winds by installing hurricane shutters on windows and bracing your garage door.
- You have prepared a disaster supply kit that includes cash and a 72- hour supply of water, food, and medicine (a one- or two-week supply, if possible).
- You have a battery-operated radio or television and plenty of extra batteries.
- You have a “safe room” to stay in, such as an interior bathroom.
- You have reliable transportation and a full tank of gas in case you need to leave after all.







## Evacuation

The term **evacuation** means leaving your home to go stay in a safer place during and possibly after an emergency or disaster. Since you may not be able to stay at home, even if you prefer to, you must prepare for the possibility of evacuation. It is generally best to evacuate to the home of a willing friend or family member who lives outside the disaster area. Another option may be a hotel outside the evacuation area, if you would be able to have your needs met in a hotel. However, in a disaster many people will be looking for places to stay, so it may be risky to count on staying in a hotel. You will need and must arrange for reliable transportation no matter where you plan to go.

Your evacuation plan must be able to respond to changing circumstances. For example, to prepare for a possible hurricane evacuation, you will need to identify a target destination that is away from coastal areas. You may decide to identify more than one possible destination, so you will have a place to go no matter which evacuation route you have to take. (For information on evacuation zones and routes, see page 30.)

If you cannot safely stay home or go to a friend's house, you may decide to go to a public emergency shelter. Emergency shelters are designed to house people safely for a short time during a disaster. They are not generally comfortable; they can be hot, crowded, and noisy. (For information on emergency shelters, see pages 24-28.)

Going to a shelter should usually be your last choice. Emergency management authorities recommend staying with a family member or friend in a safe structure in a safe area. However, your options during an actual disaster may be limited, and you may have to go to a public shelter— depending on the timing of the event and the damage to your community and to your home. Planning will help you be prepared to remain at home or to evacuate. Planning and preparation will also help you be more comfortable and allow you to meet your needs in a shelter if you must go to one.

In the case of a storm that requires you to evacuate, leave early so you won't be on the road in the affected area when the storm hits. Plan to leave at least 24 hours in advance of the storm's landfall, or when the evacuation order is issued, whichever is earlier.



## **Taking Stock #1: The Basics**

1. What special foods do you need? Are you allergic to some common foods? Is your food prepared in a special way, such as cut into small pieces or pureed?
2. Do you need certain foods that must be kept cold?
3. What adaptive utensils, plates, bowls, cups, etc., do you use?
4. Do you rely on someone to help you eat or drink? Who helps you? What type of help does that person provide?

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Whether you plan to remain at home or to evacuate, you will need to prepare a disaster supply kit. Many people in Florida call this a hurricane supply kit. Your kit will contain the basic supplies you'll need if the power is out; if stores are closed or roads are blocked; or if your family, friends, or service providers cannot reach you right away.

Your disaster supply kit must include enough food, water, medicine, and other necessities for at least 72 hours. If possible, have enough supplies on hand for a longer period—between one and two weeks.

Your supplies must be available when you need them and easy for you to get to. Don't use them for any other purpose. Select foods that have a long shelf life and that do not need to be refrigerated, heated, or cooked. Keep food and medicine in a cool, dry place or store according to the instructions on the package. Ask your doctor for advice about how to obtain and store an emergency supply of prescription medicines.

When supplies such as food and batteries near their expiration date, replace them with fresh items. Check the dates on your supplies every 6 months—perhaps when you set your clocks forward or back for Daylight Savings Time.

Some supplies will be needed only if you must remain at home for several days without electricity and without the ability to obtain additional supplies.

However, some disaster supplies should follow you no matter where you go during an emergency. These supplies should be packed in a water-resistant bag that you can carry yourself, if possible. This [Go Kit](#) will contain the basic supplies and personal items you will need to stay safely and comfortably at a friend's house or at a shelter.



You may decide to keep one [Go Kit](#) at home and another in your car— accessible whenever and wherever you need them.

A list of items that should be included in a disaster supply kit is provided on pages 10-14 of the Personal Disaster Plan.

## Taking Stock #2: Mobility

1. What mobility equipment do you use? (e.g., wheelchair, crutches, cane, leg braces, walker)
2. Does the equipment need a battery? How many spare batteries do you have? How long does it take to charge the battery?
3. Could you get out of your home very quickly if you needed to?
4. Do you rely on someone to help you move around your home? Who helps you and how do they help you?
5. Do you require specialized transportation? (e.g., lift-equipped van)



## SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRATION

Each county in Florida has a special needs registry. Its purpose is to identify in advance people who during a disaster would need extra help with transportation or sheltering due to physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory disabilities. If you think you may need such assistance, contact your local county emergency management office to find out how the special needs registry works in your county, the types of help offered, and how to apply for the registry.

The types of extra assistance that may be provided to people who pre-register are

- assignment to a special needs shelter without transportation (see page 27 for information about special needs shelters.)
- transportation and assignment to a special needs shelter
- transportation to a general population shelter. (see page 24 for information about general population shelters.)

Many counties encourage people with disabilities to register even if they do not think they need this assistance. This may help local emergency management officials to locate and check on the status of citizens with disabilities during and after a disaster.

If you are not on the special needs registry when a disaster occurs, you may still be provided shelter in a special needs shelter if you meet your county's eligibility requirements. However, it is best to pre-register because it helps local officials plan ahead so they can better meet your needs.

Here are some steps you can take to gather information about the special needs registration process in your county.

1. Contact your county's special needs registry to ask about eligibility criteria and how to apply for the registry. Visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org/disability](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/disability) for contact information, or use the list of phone numbers on page 53 of this book.
2. Contact your doctor to discuss your disability. You will probably be asked to fill out a registration form and provide information from your doctor before the registry staff determine whether you are eligible. The staff may mail you a form or they may direct you to a website where you can find the form.

The information collected by the special needs registry will need to be updated every year or as required by your county.

3. Ask how you will find out whether you qualify and what services you qualify for—assignment to a special needs shelter, or transportation assistance, or both. Ask whether you will be able to find out in advance which shelter you will be assigned to.

## **Taking Stock #3: Health**

1. What prescription & nonprescription medicines do you take?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Do you require adaptive tools or utensils to take your medicine? Does it need to be refrigerated?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What equipment or supplies do you use to maintain your health? (e.g., diabetes supplies, blood pressure monitor, oxygen tank, tracheotomy or stoma supplies)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Does the equipment require electrical power? If it runs on batteries, list the type of batteries and how many are needed to run the equipment.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Do you rely on someone to help you take medicine or use medical equipment or supplies? Who helps you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Do you go to the doctor often for treatment (e.g., dialysis)? How often do you need treatment? Have you discussed with your doctor how you will receive treatment if your normal schedule or access is disrupted?





# EMERGENCY SHELTERS

If you cannot stay home safely or go to the home of friends or family during a disaster, you may have to go to an emergency shelter. A shelter is a building where people can stay safely until they are able to return home or until other arrangements are made. Emergency shelters are designed to house people for only a short time. They are not very comfortable and, depending on your situation, should probably be your last choice.

Emergency shelters are not managed by the federal government or by the State of Florida. Each county's emergency management authority is responsible for the local shelter system. As a result, the shelter system in your county is not exactly the same as the shelter system in any other county. That is why you need specific information about your county's emergency plan.

In Florida, there are two kinds of shelters: general population shelters and special needs shelters. General population shelters are operated by the American Red Cross, local school districts, or volunteers. County health departments operate special needs shelters, which are sometimes called medical shelters.

## General Population Shelters

A **general population shelter** is meant to be a safe place for people who must leave their homes because of a disaster and who do not have another place to stay. Shelter buildings are safer than most houses or workplaces. Many shelters are schools, but some are armories, recreation centers, or other public buildings. Shelters provide only the basics, including a safe place to stay, simple food such as sandwiches, and water. People bring their clothing, toothbrush, medicine, and other personal items with them to the shelter. Shelters sometimes lose electrical power just like homes do. They can be noisy and crowded. People do not have much privacy in a shelter, and some shelters provide only cots or blankets to sleep on. The staff of a general population shelter can provide first aid, but they are generally not doctors or nurses. Special meals and special food preparations are not available at general population shelters.



Many people with disabilities may need assistance in order to have their needs met at a general population shelter. For example, some people might need help transferring to a toilet, access to assistive technology, or a quiet place to get away from noise and confusion. These accommodations may not be available at some general population shelters.

Most shelters do not have enough staff to provide one-on-one assistance. Shelter operators typically ask people with disabilities who need personal care assistance to bring their care provider or a family member with them to the shelter. Volunteers that are trained to provide assistance to people with disabilities or respite for their caregivers may be available in some areas.

General shelters cannot deny access to a person on account of a disability. **However, people with disabilities cannot assume that accommodations will automatically be available for them at a general population shelter.** The best time to find out what the local shelter can provide is now—before a disaster happens. The best starting point is the local emergency management authority. With enough information and planning in advance, you may find that your needs can be met in a general population shelter.

**Follow-Up:** Here are some steps you can take to find out about general population shelters in your county.

1. Visit the website [www.floridadisaster.org/counties](http://www.floridadisaster.org/counties) There you will find a list of county emergency management offices. When you click on your county, you will be linked to your emergency management agency's website, where you can find further local contact information. If you do not have access to the Internet, call the Florida Division of Emergency Management at 850-815-4000 (TTY: 800-226-4329) and ask for the telephone number of your county's emergency management agency. (This contact information is also provided on page 52 of this guide.)
2. Contact your county emergency management office. Explain that you are developing a disaster plan. Ask how you can find out more about local shelters and the services and accommodations that are available. Here are some things you may want to ask about:
  - What accommodations does the shelter already have in place for people with needs similar to yours (e.g., accessible restrooms, private area for dressing and toileting needs, sign language interpreter, communication boards)?
  - How do people with disabilities request accommodations in advance so the accommodations will be in place at the shelter when needed?
  - Does the general population shelter have back-up power (such as a generator)?
  - Will you be expected to bring a care provider with you to help meet your needs?
  - Discuss any accommodations you will need and how they can be provided. Discuss the types of help and equipment already available at the shelter and what you may need to provide yourself.
  - If you plan to bring your service animal with you to the shelter, ask about arrangements. Ask about shelter policy for pets.

You may be able to find the location of local shelters in the community information pages of your telephone book (usually the front section).

- Ask the emergency management staff to work with you to develop a plan for how the shelter can prepare to meet your needs in the event of a disaster.

## Special Needs Shelters

A **special needs shelter** is for people who have special needs according to this definition in the Florida Administrative Code (Chapter 64-3): “...someone, who during periods of evacuation or emergency, requires sheltering assistance, due to physical impairment, mental impairment, cognitive impairment, or sensory disabilities.”

Here are the basic eligibility criteria you would have to meet to stay in a special needs shelter:

- You are a person with special needs.
- Your care needs exceed basic first aid provided at general population shelters.
- Your impairments or disabilities are medically stable and do not exceed the capacity, staffing, and equipment of the special needs shelter to minimize deterioration of your pre-event level of health.

The purpose of a special needs shelter is to provide eligible persons with safety and assistance with essential medical needs. Special needs shelters are generally staffed by county health departments, which may have their own, more specific eligibility criteria. Some small or coastal counties do not have their own special needs shelter, so they arrange for their residents to be accepted at a shelter in a nearby county.

Most special needs shelters are equipped with electric generators that can keep lights and equipment running during a power outage. Most, but not all, special needs shelters are air-conditioned.

A special needs shelter is required to have at least one registered nurse on duty. However, special needs shelters do not provide advanced medical care. People who are in fragile health, who need specialized medical care, or who are dependent on a great deal of specialized equipment should make other arrangements in advance with their physician, such as pre-admission to a hospital before or during a disaster. Talk to your health care provider about the best option for maintaining your health and safety in an emergency that requires you to leave home.

The ability of a special needs shelter to meet the needs of people with specific medical conditions varies from one county to another. Generally, a person with special needs is responsible for making sure that his or her home medical equipment is available at the shelter. However, there is some variation from county to county. For example, some shelters provide services such as oxygen equipment, while others would expect evacuees to bring their own oxygen supplies.



If you are eligible for a special needs shelter, then your caregiver can stay at the shelter as well. If the eligible person is the caregiver for a child or other person, then that person can also stay at the shelter. Space in shelters is very limited; however, shelter operators do try to keep families together.

Even though any shelter, including a special needs shelter, should be thought of as a last resort, it's important to be informed and prepared just in case circumstances dictate that you go to a shelter.

### **Follow-Up: Emergency Shelters**

Going to a shelter should be your back-up plan, not your first choice for a place to stay in the event of a disaster. Still, it makes sense to become familiar with the shelter system in your community, just in case you do need to go to a shelter.

You may find it helpful to ask these questions of emergency management authorities:

- Will you be assigned to a general population shelter or a special needs shelter?
- Can they tell you to which shelter you would be assigned? (If so, plan and practice how to get to that shelter.)
- Can your pet stay at the shelter with you? By law, shelters allow service animals to stay with the person. Some shelters also allow pets, although they may be cared for in a separate area.
- Can a family member, friend, personal care attendant, or other person stay with you at the shelter? How many family members can stay with you in the shelter?

## **TAKING STOCK #4: SELF-CARE**

1. What positioning or other equipment do you use? (e.g., adaptive seating, stander, bed, toilet, bath chair, Hoyer lift)
2. Does the equipment use electric power? Does it use a battery? Do you have a spare battery? How long does it take to charge the battery?
3. What adaptive tools do you use to help you pick things up, operate equipment, or do your work?
4. What personal supplies do you use regularly? (e.g., cleansing wipes, disposable undergarments, disposable bed or chair pads, bandages)
5. Who is the person you rely on to help you use equipment or supplies?


## HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONES & ROUTES

There are many reasons why people might need to evacuate their homes. In Florida, one common reason is an evacuation before the landfall of a hurricane. However, evacuations also occur due to chemical spills, wildfires, and other emergencies. Local officials or emergency management authorities issue evacuation orders. In parts of Florida that are near the coast, residents must be ready to evacuate not only their home but their town or geographical area during a hurricane or **storm surge**. These areas are called hurricane evacuation zones. Even if you do not live in an evacuation zone, you may be ordered to evacuate if your area is threatened by severe weather or another type of emergency.

If you have to leave the area, try to use evacuation routes that have been pre-selected by local authorities. Using “shortcuts” or alternate routes may delay you if the roads you choose are closed, impassable, or dangerous. Stay tuned to local radio or television news broadcasts, as some roads may be closed or not usable due to high traffic volume or other conditions.

If you live near the coast or in an evacuation zone, or if you live in a mobile or manufactured home or your home is not disaster-resistant, it is especially important that your disaster plan includes a place to stay that is away from the disaster area and that you have transportation to that safer place.

Below are steps you can take now to prepare in case you ever have to evacuate. Record your decisions and the steps you intend to take on the Evacuation/ Sheltering Plan provided in your Personal Disaster Plan.

- Pack a **Go Kit** for at least 72 hours. Include food, medicine, drinking water, personal items, important documents, and any needed equipment. (See Personal Disaster Plan.) 
- Know the evacuation routes for your county. Figure out how to get to the evacuation routes from your home and workplace.
- Decide where you will go if you have to evacuate your town: To a friend’s house a few hours away? To a hotel in another county or another state?
- Keep copies of your contact list in several safe, accessible locations. The list should contain telephone numbers and other contact information for people you may go stay with and for people you will want to get in touch with, such as your family, friends, co-workers, and service providers. (The Personal Disaster Plan includes a place to list emergency contacts in the “Communications Blueprint” section on page 6. There is also an emergency information card that you can copy for your use on page 8.)
- If your area is threatened by severe weather, try to keep your car’s gas tank at least half full at all times.

- If you do not drive or do not have a car, arrange now for someone to pick you up and take you along with them in the event of an evacuation. This is an important task for the people who are part of your personal support network. (See page 35.) Consider asking several people to check on you before they evacuate to make sure you have a ride.

## **Exiting Your Home or Workplace**

If your disabilities might make it difficult for you to get out of your home or workplace, especially if the elevators are not working, plan how you will get out of these and other buildings you often spend time in. Here are examples of questions to consider, depending on your needs:

- Is there more than one exit from your floor and building?
- Who will check on you if your floor or building is being evacuated? Who will help you get out of the building? Who will take over if those people are not in the building you need to evacuate? (Make sure at least 2 people agree to check on you and that they know how to assist you.)
  - Will someone help you walk down the stairs?
  - Will you use an evacuation chair? Who will help you use it?
  - Will you be carried? By whom?

Practice exiting your home and other buildings you often spend time in.

For information about how to make sure that your disabilities are taken into account in plans for evacuating your workplace or other location, especially multi-story buildings, visit [www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability/evacuations-and-shelters/evacuation-routes](http://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability/evacuations-and-shelters/evacuation-routes)



## TAKING STOCK #5: TRANSPORTATION

1. How do you get around town? (e.g., walk, drive a car, take the bus, ride with friends or family)
2. Do you rely on a vehicle with special equipment such as a wheelchair lift?
3. Do you rely on someone to help you get around town? Who helps you?
4. Does a service animal help you get around town safely?
5. What is the contact information for your transportation provider or service?

By dialing **511**, you can receive information about current traffic conditions on interstate highways on the Florida turnpike. You must sign up advance for the service. [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com)

## SERVICE ANIMALS & PETS

To many people, animals are an important part of the family. Service animals help individuals maintain independence, but pets are also an important source of support. The ADA defines a “service animal” as “a guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to persons with a disability.” Service animals do not have to be licensed or certified by local or state government. They are permitted in private facilities that serve the public, including shelters, hospitals, and emergency vehicles; in state and local government facilities; and in the workplace.

Your service animals and pets must be included in your disaster plan. Many people report that they have stayed at home during a disaster rather than evacuate out of concern for their pet. Ensuring your animal’s safety is another important reason to plan ahead for a disaster.

Your Disaster Supply Kit must include everything you will need to feed and take care of your animal for at least 72 hours—longer, if possible.

Although some veterinary offices, kennels, animal shelters, and humane society sites offer to house pets during a disaster, most people do not want to be separated from their animals. Also these buildings may not necessarily be safer than your home.

Going to the home of a friend or family member who lives outside the evacuation area is the best way to keep your animals safe and make sure that you are not separated from them. Some hotels and motels do allow pets, although it is not safe to assume that you will be able to get a hotel room in the middle of an emergency.

Keep copies of your animal’s vaccination records and veterinarian contact information in your [Go Kit](#).



### Animals in Emergency Shelters

Service animals are allowed in all emergency shelters and in hotels and motels. Owners need to bring supplies to take care of their service animal. This includes food, collar, leash, vaccination records and other essentials.

Some general population shelters also allow people to bring pets. Again, owners need to bring supplies for their animals to the facility.

## TAKING STOCK #6: PERSONAL

1. How do you spend your time when you are not working? (e.g., read, exercise, play sports, play video games, chat with friends, make music, listen to music, meditate)
2. What equipment do you especially enjoy using during your free time? (e.g., computer, radio, CD player, screen reader, etc.)
3. What types of batteries and how many batteries are needed to operate your equipment for several days?
4. Do you rely on someone to help you make important decisions or to help you feel safe and decrease your anxiety? Who is that?
5. Do you rely on your service animal or pet to help you feel safe and decrease your anxiety?

The website [www.floridapets.net/petfriendlyshelters](http://www.floridapets.net/petfriendlyshelters) provide a list of pet-friendly motels, hotels, and shelters.

## PERSONAL SUPPORT NETWORK

A personal support network is made up of people who understand your disaster plan and have agreed to help you during a public emergency or disaster. If you usually have help from other people to get around; communicate; take care of your daily needs; or make decisions, you will still need that help during a disaster. However, the personal care assistant or family member who usually helps you may not be available. One way you can address this problem is by asking at least three people to be part of your personal support network.

Here are some examples of ways that you may want members of your personal support network to assist you before and during a possible disaster:

- Check on you to make sure you are safe. Agree on a signal for help, such as knocking on the wall, using a whistle or bell, or hanging a sheet outside your window. Also agree on a visible signal you can use to indicate that you are safe and have left your home.
- Help get supplies to you if you are going to remain at home.
- Transport you to the place where you will wait out the disaster, such as a friend's house or a shelter.
- Have a copy of your disaster plan and become familiar with it so they can help make it work. Review the plan and give you suggestions about how to make it more helpful to you.
- Contact other friends, family members, or service providers if it is difficult for you to do so during a disaster.
- Learn how to operate your mobility equipment, adaptive communication equipment, and medical devices.
- Stay with you at the shelter, if you go to one, and help you in whatever ways you have agreed on.

Remember that the American Red Cross recommends that you plan for your lowest anticipated level of functioning. In a disaster, it is safer to have more help than you need—rather than not enough.

You will need at least three people in your personal support network.

They should be people who have different daily schedules, availability, travel demands, etc., so someone will be available when you need them. Choose reliable people who have the physical and emotional ability to help you.



Once you get a network set up, keep members' contact information updated on your Personal Disaster Plan. One copy of your plan should be kept in your [Go Kit](#). Practice your plan with members of your personal support network.



For each member of your personal support network, you will want to decide the following:

- What assistance will the person provide?
- Where and how will the person provide assistance (e.g., in person, over the telephone)?
- When will the person assist you? During any and all public emergencies or disasters? Only if family members are away? For the duration of the event or only until other arrangements can be made?

Share your plan, including information about your personal support network, with your support coordinator, case manager or any agency that provides services to you, such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation or the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.



For up-to-the-minute information about current disaster situations in Florida visit [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)

# COMMUNICATION

Good communication is critical to effective disaster response. Your disaster plan should include steps to keep the lines of communication open so that you can stay informed and stay in contact with family and friends; emergency response personnel; and service providers such as doctors, therapists, and personal care assistants.

A complete plan will cover all aspects of communication, including

- how you will receive information about the emergency or disaster
- how you will stay in touch with family, friends, care providers, and members of your personal support network
- how you will communicate with emergency response personnel, shelter staff, and others.

A basic Communication Plan is provided in the Personal Disaster Plan, ready for you to complete.



## Receiving Information

Many Floridians have had the experience of tracking the path of a hurricane for several days as it is reported in the newspaper and over television, radio, and the Internet. However, once severe weather or another emergency directly affects a local area, these sources of information may no longer be available.

There is a source of information that is dedicated to providing continuous emergency information under extreme conditions. The National Weather Service broadcasts weather forecasts and **severe weather watches and warnings** 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the entire United States. This network of radio stations, called NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR), also broadcasts warnings and post-event information about all types of hazards, including natural disasters, environmental hazards, and public safety emergencies.

To receive NWR, you must have a special radio receiver or scanner that can pick up the signal. These can be purchased in various price ranges from many retailers. Some of the radios receive only NWR broadcasts; others also receive AM and FM signals. Some NWR receivers

For more information about NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (WR), visit [www.weather.gov/nwr&In\\_desc=NOAA+Weather+Radio](http://www.weather.gov/nwr&In_desc=NOAA+Weather+Radio)

provide not only an oral message about conditions in the local area but also a text display message. Adapters for weather radios can be purchased for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. These adapters use a strobe light or pillow vibrator to alert the user to an incoming report.



It's important to take special reports about bad weather or other threats seriously. Information about severe weather watches and warnings is provided in the glossary that begins on page 50. Even before there is a formal watch or warning, if you learn that dangerous weather may be heading for your area, put your disaster plan into action.

**Individual Considerations:** If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing or have difficulty understanding spoken information, you must find alternatives that will allow you to receive vital information under emergency conditions such as power outages. Remember that interruptions in land-based and cellular telephone service will affect your ability to use a TTY or other communication device. Here are some possible solutions:

- Obtain a battery-powered television so you can receive broadcasts during a power outage. News updates may be provided open-captioned or translated into American Sign Language.
- Ask members of your personal support network to share weather watches and warnings, disaster information, and evacuation orders with you in a format you have agreed upon.

## **Communicating with Your Personal Support Network**

You will need a way to get in touch with emergency contacts, such as family members, and with members of your personal support network. It needs to work even if phone lines, cell phone service, and Internet service are unavailable. Your chances of staying in touch will increase if both parties have complete contact information and know what to do in order to reach each other. Here are some strategies you may want to include in your communication plan:

- Make sure that your emergency contacts and the members of your personal support network have accurate information, including your phone number, cell phone number, e-mail address, and work and travel schedule.
- Make sure that you have accurate information for your emergency contacts and the members of your personal support network, including phone numbers, cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and work and travel schedules.
- Choose a safe place in your community (a specific school or public library branch, perhaps) where you and the members of your personal support network can meet or leave word for each other if you are not able to get in touch via telephone or Internet.



- Select someone outside your geographic region who can be a point of contact for you and your emergency contacts and personal support network. That way, if local communications networks are unreliable, you all can contact that person to help you get in touch with each other. It is often easier to make a long distance call than a call within the local area that has been affected by the emergency.
- Consider obtaining an adapter for your laptop computer or other portable communication tool that will allow you to run it from a car battery through the cigarette lighter connection.
- For individuals who use telecommunications relay services, look into different options to use as back-up including: dialing 711 (nationwide), Cap Tel (captioned telephone), Internet-based relay (through computer, text pager, PDA, etc.), and /or video relay services (through broadband).

## Communicating with First Responders and Shelter Staff

During an emergency or disaster, you may need to communicate with first responders (e.g., police, firefighters, paramedics) and shelter staff.

**Individual Considerations:** If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, or if you are not able to understand or be understood by people you don't know, it is important to prepare a method of basic communication that you can rely on in an emergency. For example, if you should need help to evacuate from your home, you will want to be able to communicate with the people who come to assist you. If you use hearing aids, implants, or adaptive communication equipment, be sure you have plenty of fresh batteries in your disaster supply kit. If you have difficulty understanding questions or instructions or if it is difficult for you to communicate when you are under stress, plan now for how you will interact with people. Here are some ideas that can help anyone, with or without disabilities, in an emergency situation:

- Keep pads of paper and pencils in your disaster supply kit.
- Keep a whistle or other noisemaker and a flashlight in your disaster supply kit so you can use them to attract the attention of rescuers.
- Obtain and wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace that lists any significant health conditions.
- Keep an emergency information card in your disaster supply kit, [Go Kit](#), purse or wallet, and car that briefly describes your disabilities and how to communicate with you. A sample appears on the following page.



Here are examples of statements you could include:

- I may have difficulty understanding what you say. Please speak slowly and use simple language.
- I cannot read. I can point to the pictures and key words that you will find in my disaster supply kit in the hall closet.
- I cannot speak clearly, but I use equipment that allows me to communicate. It is on my desk in the study. Please bring it to me and turn it on for me.
- I forget easily. Please write information down for me.

A blank emergency information card is provided for your use in the Personal Disaster Plan.

Name: Fran Florida

Address: 1234 B Street, Any City, FL Telephone #: 123.456.7890

I am deaf and can read lips if you speak slowly and use simple language. You can also write things down on paper for me to read. If you have difficulty understanding me, let me know and I will write things down for you.

I could be injured if moved improperly. Please carry me by...

Emergency Contact's Name: Sam Sunshine

Address: 5678 C Street, My City, FL

Telephone #: 012.345.6789

E-mail address: name@email.com

For more information about emergency information cards, see Emergency Evacuation Preparedness: Taking Responsibility for Your Safety: A Guide for People with Disabilities and Other Activity Limitations, by June Isaacson Kailes. Available at [www.jik.com/pubs/EmergencyEvacuation.pdf](http://www.jik.com/pubs/EmergencyEvacuation.pdf)

## TAKING STOCK #7: COMMUNICATION

1. How do you find out information? (e.g., read print or large print, read braille, listen to the radio, watch TV, have family and friends explain things) List any equipment that you use to get information. (e.g., computer, radio, cochlear implant, hearing aid, telephone,TTY)
2. Do you rely on someone to help you receive and/or understand information? Who helps you?
3. How do you let other people know what you need and want? (e.g., speak, write things down, use sign language, use body language) List any equipment that you use to communicate with other people. (e.g., speech output computer, communication choice board, paper and pencil) Does the equipment use electric power? What type of batteries and how many does it use?
4. Do people need practice or training in order to be able to communicate with you?
5. Does a service animal help you communicate with others?





## MAKE IT YOUR PLAN

Here are some of the issues that your Personal Disaster Plan will address:

- Where do you intend to stay during a disaster?
- What supplies will you need to gather and store?
- What help will you need and who will help you?
- How will you communicate with family, friends, caregivers, and emergency personnel?

You can use information provided in this guide and information you have generated from your Taking Stock worksheets to develop a Location/Evacuation Roadmap and a Communication Blueprint. You can add those to the Equipment Record and Disaster Supply Kit packing list also provided in this guide to make a complete Personal Disaster Plan.

Once you have a plan that seems practical and complete, act on it.

- Take the steps that you have outlined, such as buying disaster supplies and gathering information about your county's emergency response procedures.
- Get input on your plan from others, especially the members of your personal support network. It's also important for them to be familiar with your plan so they can help you during a disaster. Make sure they know how to use your medical, adaptive, and communication equipment.
- Practice your plan. For example, make sure you can carry your [Go Kit](#) and easily access your disaster supply kit by yourself, if possible. Make sure all your telephone contact numbers are accurate. If you know which public shelter you would be assigned to, practice getting there.



Your plan should be a flexible tool that can assist you in any type of emergency—regardless of whether you remain at home or evacuate.

## GLOSSARY

**All-hazards Approach:** Planning and preparing for all types of potential public emergencies and disasters through one process, rather than needing separate plans for different types of events.

**Disaster Planning:** The process of evaluating one's needs and the community's resources and developing a disaster plan that will ensure that the person has sufficient supplies, working communication networks/methods, and the ability to remain at home safely or to evacuate safely, as appropriate.

**Disaster Resistant:** Refers to a home or other building that has been altered, improved, or strengthened in order to increase its ability to keep occupants safe during a public emergency or disaster, particularly one related to severe weather.

**Disaster Supply Kit:** A set of supplies gathered in order to prepare for a possible disaster. It includes food, water, medicines, batteries, extra clothing, personal documents, flashlights—anything that one would need but probably not be able to obtain during a disaster in which public services and transportation are disrupted.

**Evacuation:** Leaving one's home, neighborhood, or community during a disaster in order to go to a safer or more comfortable place. In some cases, a person chooses to evacuate to a friend's house, public shelter, or other location. In other cases, an evacuation order is issued for a certain geographic area and residents are directed by law enforcement to evacuate.

**Flood:** Floods are one of the most common hazards. A flood can affect a neighborhood or community—or entire river basins and several states.

Some floods develop slowly, others over a period of days. Flash floods sometimes develop in just a few minutes and without any visible signs of rain. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water that carries rocks, mud, and other debris and can sweep away most things in its path. Overland flooding occurs outside a defined river or stream, such as when a levee is breached. Flooding can also occur when a dam breaks, producing effects similar to flash floods.

**General Population Shelter:** A school, armory, recreation center, or other designated building where people go to stay safe during a disaster. In Florida, general population shelters are operated by the American Red Cross, school districts, or volunteers.

**Go Kit:** Items from a disaster supply kit that a person will take along if he or she evacuates. A Go Kit contains the basic supplies and personal items needed to stay safely and comfortably at a friend's house or at a shelter. These supplies should be kept in an easy-to-transport, water-resistant bag or container. Some people keep one Go Kit at home and another in their car or at their workplace.

**Hazardous Materials:** Hazardous materials come in the form of chemicals, explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, and radioactive materials. Many products containing hazardous chemicals are shipped on the nation's highways, railroads, waterways, and pipelines. These substances are most often released as a result of transportation accidents or accidents in plants. Hazardous materials can cause death, serious injury, long-lasting health effects, and damage to buildings, homes, and other property.

**Hurricane:** A severe tropical cyclone with wind speeds of 75 mph or higher. As hurricanes move ashore, they bring high winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flooding. Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure, and damage potential. Category Three and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, though Categories One and Two are still extremely dangerous. The scale used to rate a hurricane's intensity is the Saffir-Simpson Scale.

**Hurricane Season:** The part of the year that has a high incidence of hurricanes. The hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico runs from June 1 to November 30.

**Hurricane Warning:** A warning that sustained winds of 74 mph or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in a specified area within 24 hours. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

**Hurricane Watch:** An announcement of specific areas to which a hurricane poses a possible threat, generally within 36 hours.

**Saffir-Simpson Scale:** A 1-5 rating based on the hurricane's present intensity. This is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall.

Category 1 Hurricane — winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt)

Category 2 Hurricane — winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt)

Category 3 Hurricane — winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt)

Category 4 Hurricane — winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt)

Category 5 Hurricane — winds 156 mph and up (135+ kt)

**Service Animal:** According to the ADA, any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. The animal does not have to be licensed or certified by a state or local government.

**Severe Weather Warning:** An alert that a hurricane, tropical storm, tornado, or other dangerous weather is expected in the area, usually within 24 hours. Residents should take steps immediately to protect their safety, when these warnings are issued

**Severe Weather Watch:** An alert that a hurricane, tropical storm, tornado, or other dangerous weather is possible in the area, usually within 36 hours. Residents should start to get ready. They should prepare to go to a safer place if necessary. They should keep checking back for more information about conditions and what to do next.

**Shelter-in-place during a Chemical or Radiation Emergency:** To take immediate shelter where one is—at home, work, school, or in-between—usually for just a few hours. Local authorities may instruct residents to shelter-in-place if chemical or radiological contaminants are released into the environment.

**Special Needs Shelter:** In Florida, this is a public emergency shelter operated by county health departments specifically for people who need sheltering assistance due to a medical condition or disability. Individuals are asked to pre-register, and they must meet specific criteria to qualify.

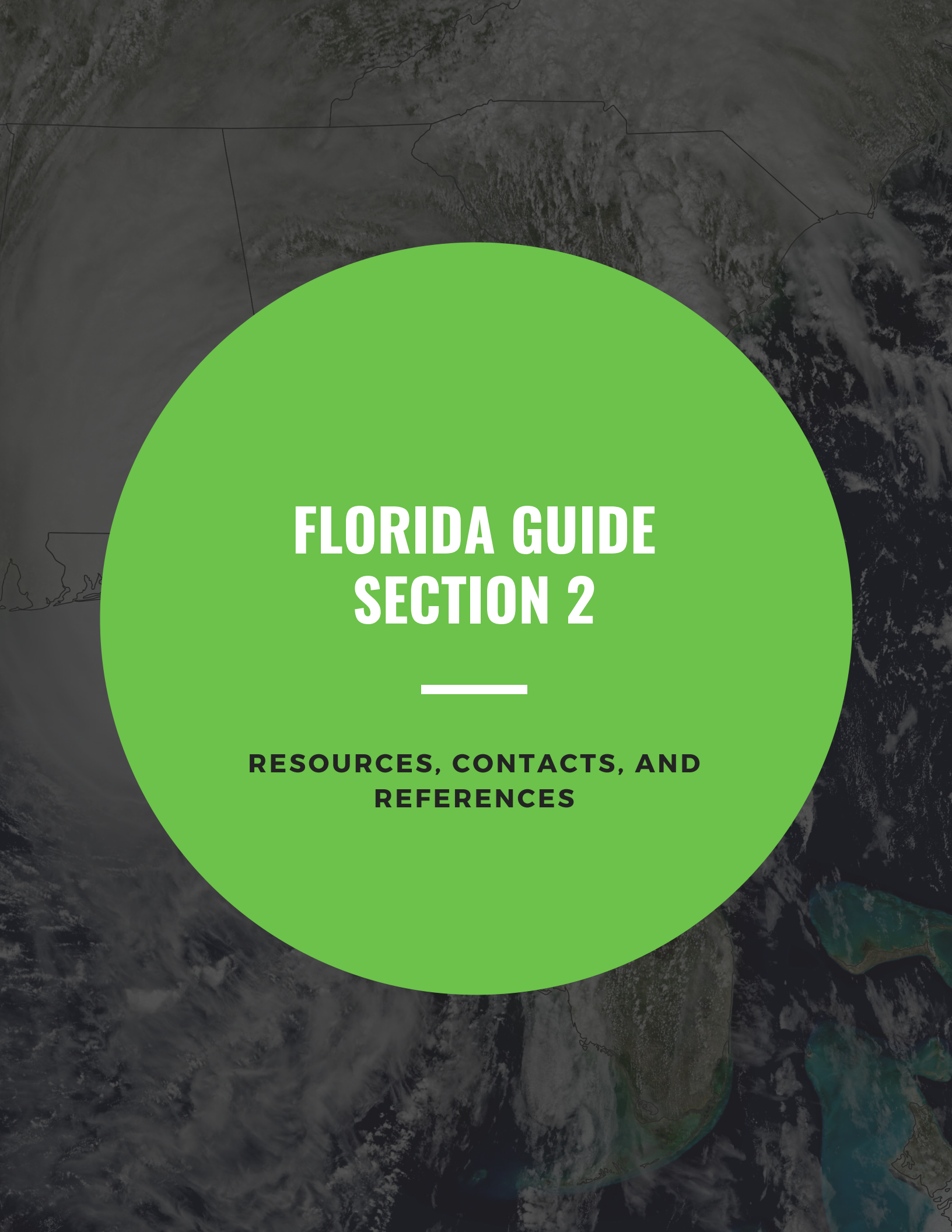
**Storm Surge:** An abnormal rise in sea level accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm. The height of the storm surge is the difference between the observed level of the sea's surface and the level that would have occurred in the absence of the storm.

**Tornado:** A rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground, with whirling winds that can reach 300 mph. Damage paths can be more than one mile wide and 50 miles long.

**Tropical Storm:** A tropical cyclone whose maximum sustained surface wind speed ranges from 39 mph to 73 mph.

[illegible]



A satellite map of Florida and surrounding areas, including parts of Alabama, Georgia, and the Gulf of Mexico. A large, solid green circle is centered over the state of Florida, serving as a background for the title text.

# **FLORIDA GUIDE SECTION 2**

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**RESOURCES, CONTACTS, AND  
REFERENCES**

# ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PREPARE

## FLORIDA

### **[www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org)**

Florida's Division of Emergency Management. Includes links and/or contact information for county emergency management agencies; special needs registration information by county, including contact numbers and links to download forms or apply; and information on topics such as evacuation, weather terms, and current weather outlook. Includes an electronic planning tool that can help families and businesses develop a basic disaster plan online. [Specific information for people with disabilities: [www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability](http://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability)]

### **[apd.myflorida.com](http://apd.myflorida.com)**

Florida's Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Provides information on emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities and their families.

### **[www.redcross.org/find-your-local-chapter.html#FL](http://www.redcross.org/find-your-local-chapter.html#FL)**

Contact information for local chapters of the American Red Cross in Florida.

### **[www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com)**

This free service provides information about traffic conditions on the Florida Turnpike and interstate highways of Florida. The service is accessible from a landline phone or a cellular phone. It may be especially helpful during an evacuation. Residents must sign up for the service at the website listed above.

## NATIONAL

### **[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)**

National Weather Service. Information on current weather-related hazards.

### **[www.weather.gov/nwr](http://www.weather.gov/nwr)**

Information on National Weather Radio.

### **[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)**

Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/f&web.pdf>**

Information about water sources and water purification during a disaster.

**[www.redcross.org/services/disaster](http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster)**

Information about preparedness and recovery, including disaster supplies, financial preparedness, and other topics. Includes specific information relevant to particular types of disasters, such as hurricanes or chemical spills.

**[www.vialoflife.com](http://www.vialoflife.com)**

Free form to fill out online or print. Developed for seniors to record information about their health status and needs for emergency personnel, but may be useful to other people as well.

**[www.prepare.org](http://www.prepare.org)**

Focuses on preparedness for elderly persons, people with disabilities, families with children, and pet owners. Information is presented in standard and large-print format and in numerous languages. Includes an online training. Provided by the American Red Cross.

**[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)**

Department of Homeland Security. Information (including short videos) on preparedness; emergency supply list.

## **LEGAL/REGULATORY**

**[www.flrules.org](http://www.flrules.org)**

Florida Administrative Code online and searchable. For example, the full text of the rule on special needs shelters can be found by entering “64-3” in the search field: “By Chapter Number.”

**[www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)**

Part of the website of the U.S. Department of Justice. Provides information on requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including, “An ADA Guide for Local Governments: Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities.”

\*Please note that telephone numbers and Web site addresses can change! All information is current as of the publication date.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

Alachua	(352) 264-6500	Lee	(239) 533-0620
Baker	(904) 259-0235	Leon	(850) 606-3700
Bay	(850) 248-6040	Levy	(352) 486-5213
Bradford	(904) 966-6910	Liberty	(850) 643-3477
Brevard	321-637-6661	Madison	(850) 973-3698
Broward	(954) 831-3900	Manatee	(941) 749-3507
Calhoun	(850) 674-8075	Marion	(352) 369-8185
Charlotte	(941) 833-4000	Martin	(772) 219-4942
Citrus	352-249-2703	Miami-Dade	(305) 468-5400
Clay	(904) 541-2767	Monroe	(305) 289-6012
Collier	(239) 252-3600	Nassau	904-548-0954
Columbia	(386) 758- 1383	Okaloosa	(850) 651-7150
Desoto	(863) 993-4831	Okeechobee	(863) 763-3212
Dixie	(352) 498-1240 ext. 231	Orange	(407) 836-9140
Duval	(904) 255-3110	Osceola	(407) 742-9000
Escambia	(850) 471-6409	Palm Beach	(561) 712-6321
Flagler	(386) 313-4200	Pasco	727-484-3076
Franklin	(850) 653-8977	Pinellas	(727) 464-3800
Gadsden	(850) 627-9233	Polk	(863) 298-7000
Gilchrist	(386) 935-5400	Putnam	(386) 329-0379
Glades	(863) 946-6020	Sarasota	(941) 861-5495
Gulf	(850) 229-9110	Sata Rosa	(850) 983-5360
Hamilton	(386) 792-6647	Seminole	(407) 665-5102
Hardee	(863) 773-6373	St. Johns	(904) 824-5550
Hendry	(863) 674-5404	St. Lucie	(772) 462-8110
Hernando	(352) 754-4083	Sumter	352) 569-1661
Highlands	(863) 385-1112 X 4412	Suwannee	(386) 364-3755
Hillsborough	(813) 272-6600	Taylor	(850) 838-3575
Holmes	(850) 547-1112	Union	(386) 496-4300
Indian River	(772) 226-3859	Volusia	(386) 254-1500
Jackson	(850) 718-0007	Wakulla	(850) 745-7200
Jefferson	(850) 342-0211	Walton	850.892.8065 X1
Lafayette	(386) 294-1950	Washington	(850) 638-6203
Lake	(352) 343-9420		

For more information visit [www.floridadisaster.org/counties](http://www.floridadisaster.org/counties)

## CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING CONTACTS

### **Florida Independent Living Council**

(statewide contact information)

[www.floridasilc.org](http://www.floridasilc.org)

(850) 488-5624 Voice

### **Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette, Lake, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Union**

222 SW 36th Terrace

Gainesville, FL 32607

(352) 378-7474 Voice

(352) 240-3079 VP

(800) 265-5724 Toll

Sign Language Interpreting Services

(877) 629-8840 Toll Free

[www.cilncf.org](http://www.cilncf.org)

[tdelisle@cilncf.org](mailto:tdelisle@cilncf.org)

Ocala, Florida

3445 NE 24th Street

Ocala, FL 34470

(352) 368-3788 Voice

(352) 414-1833 VP

(352) 368-2969 TTY

### **Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns**

Center for Independent Living Jacksonville

2709 Art Museum Dr.

Jacksonville, FL 32207

(904) 399-8484 Voice/TTY

(888) 427-4313 Toll

(904) 231-0388 Voice

[www.ciljacksonville.org](http://www.ciljacksonville.org)

[info@ciljacksonville.org](mailto:info@ciljacksonville.org)

[tmorris@ciljacksonville.org](mailto:tmorris@ciljacksonville.org)

### **Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Washington**

Suncoast CIL, Inc.

Disability Resource Center

300 West 5th Street

Panama City, FL 32401

(850) 769-6890

[www.drcpc.org](http://www.drcpc.org)

[outreach@drcpc.org](mailto:outreach@drcpc.org)

### **Brevard, Indian River**

Resource Center for Disability Solutions

571 Haverty Court, Suite W

Rockledge, FL 32955

(321) 633-6011 Voice/TTY

[www.rcdsfl.org](http://www.rcdsfl.org)

[rmiles@rcdsfl.org](mailto:rmiles@rcdsfl.org)

### **Broward**

CIL of Broward

4800 N. State Road 7 Ste 102

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319

(954) 722-6400 Voice

(954) 735-0963 TTY

[www.cilbroward.org](http://www.cilbroward.org)

[cilb@cilbroward.org](mailto:cilb@cilbroward.org)

[chinds@cilbroward.org](mailto:chinds@cilbroward.org)

### **Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee**

CIL Gulf Coast

7011 Cypress Terrace, Suite 103

Fort Myers, FL 33907

(239) 260-4575 Voice

[www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org](http://www.cilgulfcoastflorida.org)



**DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole**

CIL of Central Florida  
720 North Denning Dr.  
Winter Park, FL 32789-3020  
(407)623-1070 Voice  
(407) 623-1185 TTY  
(877) 891-6448 TL Free  
[www.cilorlando.org](http://www.cilorlando.org)  
[ehowe@cilorlando.org](mailto:ehowe@cilorlando.org)

CIL in Polk County  
500 S. Florida Ave.  
Suite 330  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
(863) 413-2722 Voice  
[jhurt@cilorlando.org](mailto:jhurt@cilorlando.org)

**Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton**

CIL Disability Resource Center of North West FL  
3600 North Pace Blvd.  
Pensacola, FL 32505  
(850) 595-5566 Voice/TDD  
(877) 245-2457 Toll  
[www.cilnwf.org](http://www.cilnwf.org)  
[carolyn@cilnwf.org](mailto:carolyn@cilnwf.org)

**Flagler, Volusia**

disAbility Solutions for Independent Living, Inc.  
119 South Palmetto Ave Ste 180  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
(386) 255-1812 Voice  
(386) 252-6222 TTY  
[www.dsil.org](http://www.dsil.org)  
[ciawanda@dsil.org](mailto:ciawanda@dsil.org)

**Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla**

Ability 1st  
823 Buford Court Tallahassee, FL 32308  
(850) 575-9621 Voice  
(850) 576-5245 TDD  
[www.ability1st.info](http://www.ability1st.info)

**Hillsborough**

Self-Reliance CIL, Inc.  
8901 N. Armenia Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33604  
(813) 375-3965 Voice  
(813) 375-3972 TTY  
[www.self-reliance.org](http://www.self-reliance.org)  
[bruehl@self-reliance.org](mailto:bruehl@self-reliance.org)

**Lake, Orange, Seminole, Osceola**

CIL of Central FL  
720 North Denning Dr.  
Winter Park, FL 32789-3020  
(407)623-1070 Voice  
(407) 623-1185 TTY  
(877) 891-6448 TL Free  
[www.cilorlando.org](http://www.cilorlando.org)  
[ehowe@cilorlando.org](mailto:ehowe@cilorlando.org)

**Manatee, Sarasota**

Suncoast CIL, Inc.  
3281 17th Street  
Sarasota, FL 34235  
(941) 351-9545 Voice  
(800) 299-0297 TTY  
[www.scil4u.org](http://www.scil4u.org)  
[execdir@scil4u.org](mailto:execdir@scil4u.org)

**Martin, Palm Beach, Okeechobee, St. Lucie**

Coalition for Independent Living Options  
4400 N. Congress Avenue, Suite 203  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
(561) 966-4288 Voice  
(561) 641-6538 TTY  
[dan@cilo.org](mailto:dan@cilo.org)

1356 SW Bayshore Boulevard  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983  
(772) 878-3500 Voice  
[www.cilo.org](http://www.cilo.org)

**Miami-Dade**

CIL of South Florida  
4770 Biscayne Blvd.  
Miami, FL 33137  
(305) 751-8025 Voice  
(305) 751-8891 TTY  
[www.cilsf.org](http://www.cilsf.org)  
[info@cilsf.org](mailto:info@cilsf.org)

**Monroe**

CIL of the Keys  
103400 Overseas Hwy. Suite 243A

Key Largo, FL 33037  
(305) 453-3491 Voice  
(305) 453-9931 TTY  
[sbrewer@ciloftthekeys.org](mailto:sbrewer@ciloftthekeys.org)

**Pasco, Pinellas**

Disability Achievement Center  
12552 Belcher Rd. S.  
Largo, FL 33773  
(727) 539-7550  
[www.myDACIL.org](http://www.myDACIL.org)  
[joed@mydacil.org](mailto:joed@mydacil.org)

\*Please note that telephone numbers and Web site addresses can change! All information is current as of the publication date.

## HELP AFTER A DISASTER

Throughout the recovery period, it is important to monitor local radio or television reports and other media sources for specific information about how to obtain emergency housing, food, first aid, clothing, and financial assistance.

Direct assistance may come from various organizations, such as your local chapter of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other voluntary organizations. They provide food, shelter, and supplies, and assist in clean-up efforts.

In the most severe disasters, the federal government is called in to help with temporary housing, counseling for post-disaster trauma, low-interest loans and grants, and other assistance. The federal government also offers programs that help small businesses and farmers.

Most federal assistance becomes available when the President of the United States declares a “major disaster” in the affected areas, at the request of a state governor. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide information through the media and community outreach about how to obtain federal assistance.

**Note:** Florida law requires that all utility companies offer a priority reconnection service for people with disabilities who use power-dependent equipment. Contact your utility company for more information and to get placed on their priority reconnection list.

### Resources

#### 211

In many, but not all, communities in Florida, the telephone number “211” has been designated as an information and referral line. This means that community members can dial “211” to get connected to a variety of community services, including agencies that provide assistance with disaster recovery.

## AGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

The contact information below applies to national or state-level agencies that provide information or referral during or after a disaster. However, it is generally best to contact the local branches of agencies, such as the American Red Cross, directly in order to be connected with community-level assistance. Check your phone book or the Internet for local contact information, or call the numbers listed below to request contact information for your county.

Division of Emergency Management- (850) 413-9969

Division of Emergency Management (TTY)- (800) 226-4329

Florida Emergency & Information Line- (800) 342-3557  
*(only in operation once a disaster has been declared)*

FEMA disaster assistance contact line- (800) 621-3362

FEMA disaster assistance (TTY)- (800) 462-7585

FEMA (fraud and abuse hotline)- (800) 621-3362

American Red Cross- (800) 733-2767

Salvation Army- (800) 728-7825

Hunger Hotline- (866) 348-6479

Feeding America- (855) 352-3663

Elder Helpline- (800) 963-5337

State Attorney General Price Gouging Hotline- (866) 966-7226

\*Please note that telephone numbers and Web site addresses can change! All information is current as of the publication date.

## REFERENCES

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Washington State Department of Health. (2007). "Purifying household water." [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency. "Guidelines for managing water supplies." [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and American Red Cross. (2004). Preparing for disaster for people with disabilities and other special needs. Washington, DC: Author.

Florida Department of Health. (2007). The family preparedness guide: Helping your family prepare for emergencies. Tallahassee, FL.

Florida Division of Emergency Management, State Emergency Management Response Team, "EM entire list." [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

Kailes, J. I. (2002). Emergency evacuation preparedness: Taking responsibility for your safety: A guide for people with disabilities and other activity limitations.

Pomona, CA:Western University of Health Sciences,The Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions. [www.prepare.org](http://www.prepare.org)

Tampa Bay Top Team. "Safe drinking water precautions after a hurricane." [www.floridahurricane.net](http://www.floridahurricane.net)



**FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.**

124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2981, (850) 488-4180, FAX (850) 922-6702, TDD (850) 488-0956

**CONSUMER SATISFACTION SURVEY**

The Federal Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000 requires all Developmental Disabilities Councils to report on customer satisfaction with Council-supported activities. The information that you are providing in this survey will be incorporated into an annual report that is submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. We value your appraisal of this book. Your reply is important. Please complete the information below and mail it to: Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, 124 Marriot Drive, Suite 203, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

**Activity: Disaster Ready: Emergency Preparedness Guide for Floridians with Disabilities**Check the category that best describes you: ☐ Individual with a disability ☐ Family member ☐ Public policy makerRepresentative of ☐ Public Agency ☐ Private Agency ☐ Member of Community Organization or Association

Name of city where you live: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the box that best reflects your opinion of this activity.****I. Consumer Satisfaction with Council Supported Activities**

Statement	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied
For this guidebook, I (or a family member) am			

**II. Consumer Satisfaction with Council Activities**

Statement	Yes	No
<b>Respect:</b> I (or my family member) was treated with respect during project activity.		
<b>Choice:</b> I (or my family member) have more choice and control as a result of project activity.		
<b>Community:</b> I (or my family member) can do more things in my community as a result of this project.		
<b>Rights:</b> Because of this project activity, I (or my family member) know my rights.		
<b>Safe:</b> I (or my family member) am more able to be safe and protect myself from harm as a result of this activity.		

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Satisfied:</b> I am satisfied with the guidebook.						
<b>Better Life:</b> My life is better because of the guidebook.						

**III. What has been helpful or not helpful about this guide?**

---

Please tear out and mail to:

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council  
124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-2981  
(850) 488-4180, FAX (850) 922-6702, TDD (850) 488-0956

*(fold)*

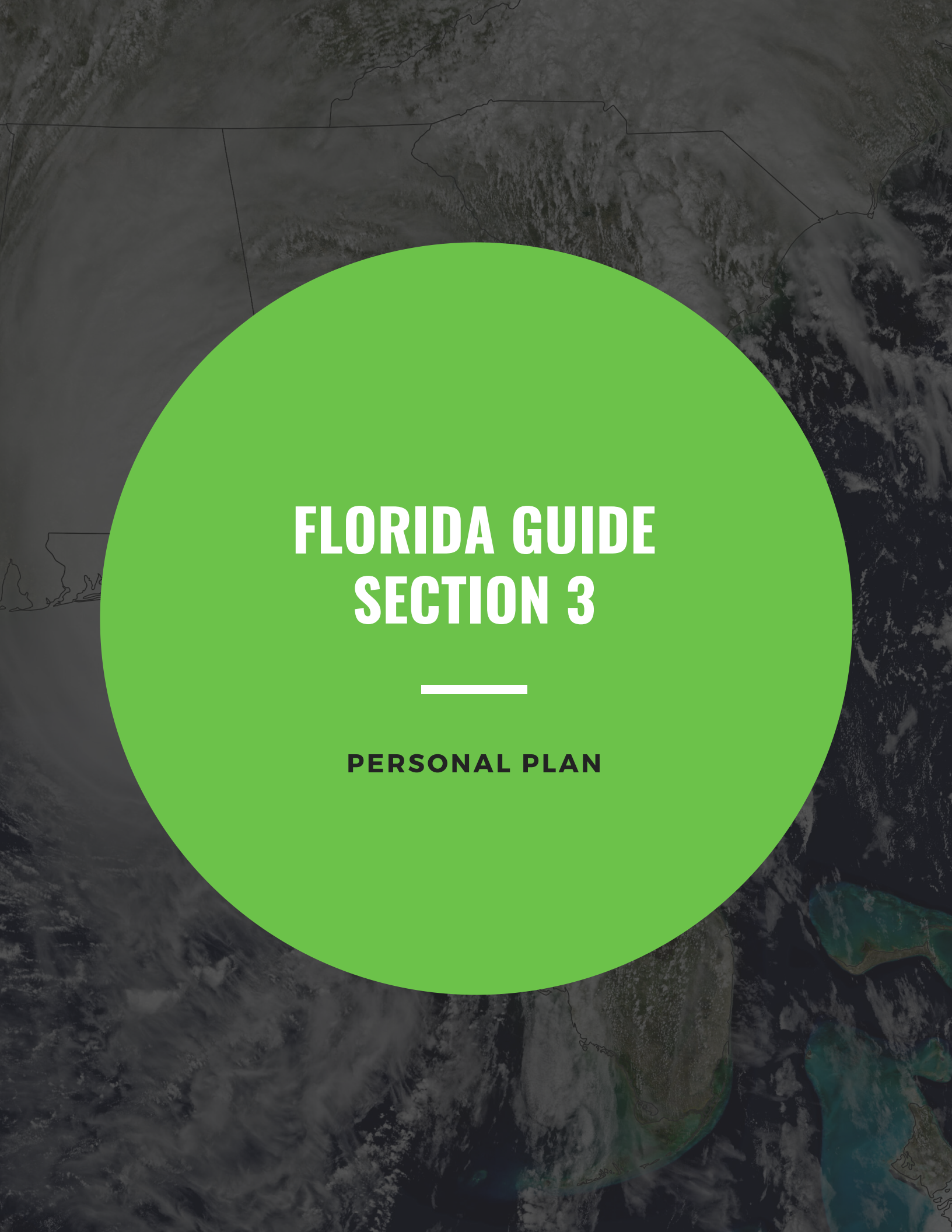
---

**Stamp**

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council  
124 Marriott Drive, Suite 203  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2981

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*(fold)*

A satellite map of Florida is shown in a dark, muted color palette. A large, solid green circle is centered over the state, serving as a background for the title text.

# **FLORIDA GUIDE SECTION 3**

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**PERSONAL PLAN**

## PERSONAL DISASTER PLAN FOR:

---

Plan Completed: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
                            *month*      *day*      *year*

Plan Updated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
                            *month*      *day*      *year*

Plan Updated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
                            *month*      *day*      *year*

Plan Updated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
                            *month*      *day*      *year*

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police Dept./Sheriff: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Care Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital/Health Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Poison Control Center: 1-800-222-1222

# INTRODUCTION

The Personal Disaster Plan you will develop in this section has four parts:

- The **Location/Evacuation Roadmap** (page 6) allows you to record the important decisions you make about your plans for remaining at home and for evacuating in the event of a public emergency or disaster.
- The **Communication Blueprint** (pages 7-9) provides space for information about all aspects of communication during a disaster. It includes a blank Emergency Information Card for you to copy, complete, and keep copies of in your home, [Go Kit](#), car, and workplace.
- You can bring together basic information about all your important medical, mobility, communication, and adaptive equipment on the **Equipment Record** (page 10).
- The **Disaster Supply Kit List** (pages 11-15) will help you decide what supplies to collect and store so you are ready in the event of a disaster. You can add to the list based on the information you gathered on your Taking Stock worksheets—and based on your personal preferences.



# DISASTER PLANNING CHECKLIST

Check off each step below as you complete it.

- ☐ **Location/Evacuation Roadmap** completed
- ☐ **Communication Blueprint** and **Contact Card** completed
- ☐ **Equipment Record** completed
- ☐ **Disaster Supply Kit** stocked
- ☐ **Copies of plan stored** safely at home, in Go Kit, at work, in car
- ☐ **Copies of plan given** to emergency contacts and personal support network

## LOCATION/EVACUATION ROADMAP

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 17-19, 23-24, 27-31, 33-36.)

◆ Where do you plan to stay during a disaster?

- ☐ At Home
- ☐ At the home of a friend or relative, at a hotel, or other location
- ☐ At a public shelter

◆ If you go to the home of a friend or relative, a hotel, or any other location:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal(s) you will bring with you: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ If you go to a public shelter:

- ☐ General population shelter
- ☐ Special needs shelter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I have made plans for pets (other than service animals) or confirmed they can come with me to the shelter.

◆ If you do not plan to bring your service animal and/or pets with you when you evacuate, how and where will they be taken care of?

\_\_\_\_\_

◆ If an evacuation order is issued for your community:

- ☐ Evacuation route(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Method of transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACH A MAP OR DIRECTIONS TO YOUR DESTINATIONS**

# COMMUNICATION BLUEPRINT

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 38-47.)

## ◆ Method of receiving disaster warnings, evacuation orders and post-disaster updates

- ☐ Hand-cranked or battery-operated NWR-compatible radio
- ☐ Battery operated television
- ☐ Adaptive communication equipment (list here):

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ From a friend, relative, or service provider:

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ◆ Emergency contacts (List at least one who lives outside your geographic area)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## ◆ Personal Support Network members

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How this person may help me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How this person may help me: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How this person may help me: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

◆ Service or transportation providers

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Medical providers

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Back-up meeting place for emergency contacts, Personal Support Network, family or service providers.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Transportation: \_\_\_\_\_

*You may make additional copies of this card as needed.*

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact/ICE\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Disability or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medication: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Equipment/Assistive Devices: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*In Case of Emergency

\*\*This should include critical information such as how others should assist you. For example: I cannot read. I communicate using a communication device. I can point to simple pictures on a sign board. Please refer to pg. 44-45 in the FLORIDA GUIDE for more information.



# EQUIPMENT RECORD

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 22, 25-26, 32, 37, 46.)

Record information about important, expensive, and difficult-to-replace equipment you use for mobility, communication, activities of daily living, and other purposes. Make extra copies as needed.

Equipment Name or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Brand and Model Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Serviced by: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Equipment Name or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Brand and Model Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Serviced by: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Equipment Name or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Brand and Model Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Serviced by: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISASTER SUPPLY KIT LIST

Pages 12-15 list supplies you will need if you have to remain at home for a prolonged period during and after a disaster, without access to electric power or running water. Check off the supplies as you obtain them.

There are two special symbols on the list:



Items that you should pack in your Go Kit are marked with this green suitcase symbol. You may decide to bring other items as well, depending on what will be available at your destination, such as the home of a friend or family member or a public shelter.



Items marked with a blue bell are those that you probably cannot pack in advance, but will need to pack once you have warning of a disaster.

Add other items to the list to meet your unique needs or preferences. Refer to the Taking Stock checklists you completed in the FLORIDA GUIDE for ideas about supplies you may want to add.

## FOOD AND WATER

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 20-21, 36.)

- [ ] Water for drinking, brushing teeth, cooking, cleaning contact lenses: At least 1 gallon for each person for each day (enough for each person for 3 or more days). Buy bottled water or store tap water in very clean, sealed containers. Replace this water every 6 months.
- [ ] Safe drinking water for pets and service animal: enough for 3 or more days
- [ ] Small bottle of plain liquid bleach containing. Do not use bleach that contains perfumes, dyes, or added cleaners.
- [ ] Food for 3 or more days. Food that does not need to be refrigerated, cooked, or heated and that will stay fresh for a long time
- [ ] Food for the special dietary needs of any infant/toddler or other members of the household for 3 or more days
- [ ] Snacks/treats



- [ ] Food for pets and service animals



- [ ] Cooler to keep food or medicine cold, if necessary



- [ ] Ice packs if you will need to keep food cold



- [ ] Disposable spoons, bowls, cups, etc.

- [ ] Manual or battery-operated can opener and batteries



- [ ] A water bowl and food bowl for each animal



- [ ] Adaptive feeding and dinking tools



- [ ] Water for washing bodies and flushing toilets. Fill bathtubs, pots and pans, or other containers with water. Do not drink this water. To make it safer, you amy boil this water or treat it with bleach, as described on the next page.

- [ ] List other: \_\_\_\_\_

- [ ] \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH

(See Florida Guide, pages 25-26)



☐ Prescription medicines you will need for 3 or more days



☐ Over-the-counter medicines you will need for 3 or more days



☐ Any medical equipment that you will need



☐ Batteries for medical equipment



☐ Copies of current prescriptions



☐ Adaptive tools needed for taking medicine or using medical supplies/equipment



☐ Filter mask with N95 rating



☐ Hand sanitizer



☐ List other: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Water from your tap or well may become unsafe to drink. Use your stored drinking water first. Then if you need more drinking water, purify water from your tap or other source by one of these two methods:

Bring water to a rapid boil and then continue to boil it for at least one minute longer. This is the safest method.

Add 1/8 teaspoon (or 16 drops) of household liquid bleach to each gallon of water. Mix and let stand for 30 minutes.

Filter cloudy water through a paper towel before treating. Boiling and bleach kill only bacteria and viruses. If you think the water has been contaminated by chemicals, oils, poisonous substances, or sewage, do not use it. Find out from weather, radio or local authorities when your community's tap water is safe to drink.

## BASIC SUPPLIES

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 21, 32, 37.)

☐ Generator and fuel for at least 3 days



☐ Full tank of gas for car



☐ Battery-operated or hand-cranked flashlight or lantern for each person and batteries



☐ Cash



☐ Credit card, debit card, or both



☐ Copy of personal identification (driver's license or other photo ID)



☐ Copy of animals' vaccination records and veterinarian contact information



☐ Copy of health, property, auto, life, and other insurance documents



☐ Recent photo of each family member and pet



☐ Record of important equipment (see page 10)



☐ Clothing for 3 or more days



☐ Blankets or sleeping bag and pillows



☐ Toilet paper



☐ Small bottle of soap



☐ Small bottle of shampoo



☐ Wipes



☐ Toothbrush and small tube of toothpaste



☐ First aid kit



☐ Whistle



☐ Small amount of dish soap or other cleaning supplies



☐ A few personal items (e.g. books, music, handheld game system) and batteries



☐ List other: \_\_\_\_\_



## MOBILITY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 22, 25-26, 32, 37, 46.)



[ ] Mobility equipment such as a wheelchair, walker, crutches, cane, braces



[ ] Fully charged spare battery for power wheelchair and other mobility devices. Also fully charge your main battery once you have warning of a disaster.



[ ] List other equipment you plan to take with you if you evacuate



[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNICATION

(See FLORIDA GUIDE, pages 38-47.)



[ ] Battery-operated or hand-cranked NOAA weather radio and extra batteries



[ ] Cell phone or calling card



[ ] Car charger or hand-cranked charger for cell phone



[ ] Car charger or power adapter for laptop computer



[ ] Battery-operated television



[ ] Contact information for personal support network and others (see pages 6-8)



[ ] Emergency Information Card (see page 9)



[ ] Tools you use to communicate, standard and adaptive equipment plus extra batteries; car adapter and/or charger



[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] \_\_\_\_\_

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

