

Organizations that deal with specific disabilities should create a checklist specific to their population.

Disability Track: Medication, Technology and Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

For those with disabilities including individuals in the community with physical, mental, or medical care needs that may require assistance before, during, and/or after a disaster or emergency after exhausting their usual resources and support network Technology, DME, and Medication help promote a level of independence that allows a more normal level of function and better integration into normal community life, and they should be incorporated at every level of disaster planning.

Technology

1. All emergency community communications should be prepared with the needs of the sensory disabled and impaired individuals considered, and existing broadcast regulations should be enforced by the FCC and others regulators for broadcasters of emergency alerts.
 - a. All alert messages on the radio and TV, should be verbatim real time, including reading of on-screen text. Automated alert radios should have detailed auditory alerts and detailed messages.
 - b. Emergency exit doors should be identified by tactile letters and/or Braille lettering as well as prominent letter display, and should have a battery back-up universal audible identifiable sound.
 - c. Audible community alerts in public places should be accompanied by full descriptive text messages.
 - d. Networks of emergency alert services, including PERS (Personal Emergency Response System) services, and outbound automated messaging systems should be developed locally for persons with disabilities and anyone requiring assistance. Detailed auditory messages for an emergency alert can be provided through these networks to the visually impaired.
 - e. Phones with brail keyboards and one-button access to 911 type emergency services should be available in the community.

2. Each disabled or sensory impaired individual should have in the home a device tailored to their need that is able to receive accessible emergency warning information, preferably battery as well as electrical outlet powered. Web-based and wireless technologies should be used to promote community emergency alert networks. Examples of community alert communications system technology currently include;
 - a. Outbound automated telephone calls
 - b. Automated pager alert systems
 - c. Wireless radio alerts systems
 - d. Simple text messaging alert devices

- e. Automated override portable radio alert systems
 - f. GPS enabled electronic devices to identify residences and track disabled persons who need active assistance by emergency personnel in an emergency
3. Individuals with disability need to assemble personal disaster kits including a list of any special equipment (including instruction for use) that need to remain with them if evacuated. Organizations that deal with specific disabilities should create a checklist specific to their population. Example of special technology;
- a. Brail labeled medicine containers
 - b. Insulin Pen, special syringes for visually impaired
 - c. Diabetic glucometer with extra battery and test strips
 - d. Talking pill containers for the blind and visually impaired

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

1. Individuals with disability need to assemble a personal disaster kit, ready for an emergency and easily transported (e.g. designed to attach to the wheelchair, backpack) that include a list of the essential technology equipment and DME like assistive devices, supplies, and dressings that must be taken with the individual if they are moved with instructions on how to use them. Third party payers and insurance companies for DME should allow payment for alternative and emergency supplies of DME and assistive devices needed for personal emergency preparedness.
 - a. Personal assisted listening device like a personal amplifier
 - b. Blind persons ultrasonic assisted mobility device
 - c. Portable TTY
 - d. Manual wheelchairs
2. Community emergency shelter planning needs to provide some stock on-hand for the emergency DME supplies commonly needed in the home of those disabled or impaired by mobility and sensory impairment, and those required for independence outside the home. Emergency evacuation planning processes need to provide processes to allow those individuals with sensory and mobility impairment or disability to retain essential DME appliances essential for their independent function.
 - a. Simple assistive devices like regular and quad canes, walkers and “safety rollers,” and crutches
 - b. Folding White Canes for the blind
 - c. Manual Wheelchair and Rolling chairs
 - d. Portable Ramp
 - e. Shower Chair
 - f. Bathtub seats
 - g. Large Handled Eating Utensils
 - h. Flexible Straws
 - i. Two Handled Drinking Mug

- j. Leash And Collar For Service Animal
 - k. Oxygen, Portable oxygen tanks, Oxygen regulators, Oxygen tubing
 - l. Drainage bags for catheters
 - m. Standard ostomy supplies and dressings, and Incontinence pads
 - n. Bedpans, urinal, Emesis basin
 - o. Simple support surfaces (e.g. Egg-crate Pad), Lambs wool pads
 - p. Basic diabetic supplies
3. Training needs to take place for shelter managers and staff about the disabled and special needs population in regards to DME, technology and medication that needs to be in place in community shelters. FEMA has developed a comprehensive training course, “Emergency Planning and Special Needs Populations,” designed for emergency planners that provides an excellent framework for training content. Any exercises or drills that include people with disabilities should incorporate any equipment or assistive devices that they require.

Medication

1. Community shelter planners need to accommodate the regular medication needs that enable disabled and special need population to remain independent directly or through contracted pharmacies.
 - a. Separate refrigeration storage for medication
 - b. Special medicine containers designed for the sensory impaired and those with poor dexterity
 - c. Pre-set capable insulin syringe
 - d. Color coded medicine containers
 - e. Multi-day pre-pour container
2. Individuals with disability need to assemble personal disaster kits including a list of all medications actively taken, their name, dosage, and prescribing physician, any special equipment (including instruction for use) needed to take them, and any requirements about storing them (e.g. refrigeration).