Ready Lowcountry
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Emergency Preparedness Guide

Planning tips for people with disabilities and other special needs

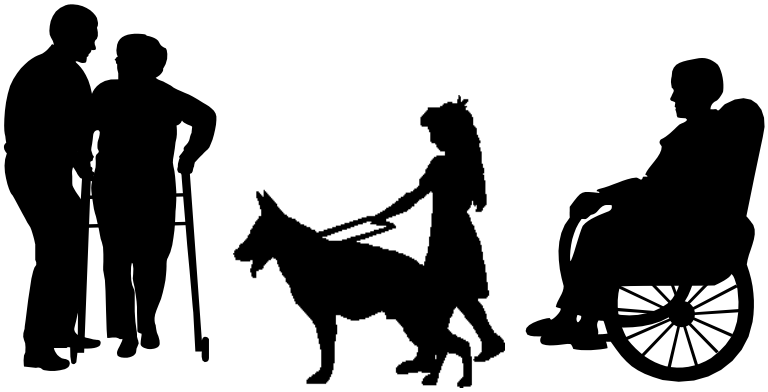

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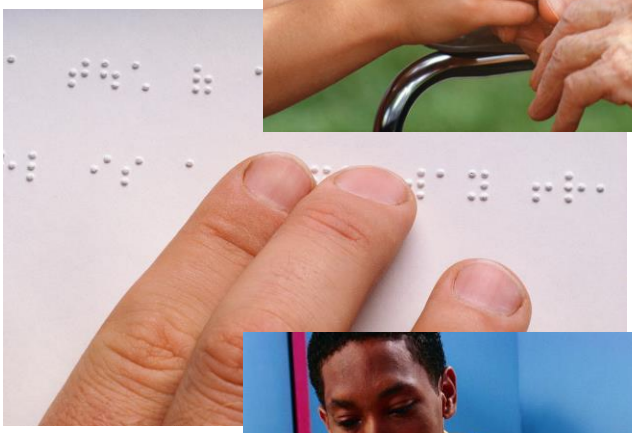
Table of Contents

Who should read this guide? 3
How to use this guide 3
Why prepare? 4
Preparedness Checklist 4
Ability Self-Assessment 5
Establish a Support Team 10
Create Emergency Plans 12
Disability-Specific Supplies: Emergency Kits 14
Out-of-State Contact List 16
Emergency Supplies 17
Charleston County Evacuation Routes 20
Red Cross Shelter List 22
Transportation Assistance 23
Important Phone Numbers 27

Who should read this guide?

You should read this guide if you have a disability, special need or just are not as strong and active as you used to be. This guide is for everyone who has trouble walking, hearing, seeing, breathing, understanding, learning, or responding quickly. These reduced abilities can be temporary or permanent. They can be due to conditions such as allergies, age or disability. Throughout this guide the terms “people” or “individuals” refer to this varied group of people. If your family member is in a nursing facility or has home hospice care, make sure you contact them regarding their emergency procedures.



How to use this guide

Use this guide with other preparedness information such as the Charleston County “Are You Ready?” preparedness guide, Disability Resource Center and American Red Cross information. You will find information about how to get these items throughout this guide.

Why prepare?

You are less likely to have problems in either large or small emergencies if you are prepared. A power failure or your pharmacist running out of your medications are examples of small emergencies. Large emergencies affect a wide area, overload emergency services, and may mean that you have to be self-sufficient for a week or more.

Systems that people rely on may not work in a major disaster. The situation can be even harder for people with disabilities and activity limitations. For example, your ability to get to exits or to gather up your personal items and emergency supplies may be reduced. People with vision or hearing loss or speech disabilities can have more trouble than usual in communicating, especially when regular systems are down or overloaded. These problems can occur just when communication may be crucial to survival and safety. Planning is important in order to deal with these problems.

Avoid the common tendency to not think about and plan for possible emergencies. You need to plan for all kinds of hazards. These include chemical, biological and radiological events, explosions, transportation accidents, fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, power outages, etc. Make your plans, then practice, evaluate and update them.

Preparing takes time and effort. You might want to do a little at a time. The important thing is to start. The more you do, the better you can protect yourself.

Preparedness Checklist

Done?	Activity	Pages
	Conduct an ability self-assessment	5 - 9
	Establish a support team	10
	Learn to quickly give information on how best to assist you	11
	Create emergency plans	12 - 13
	Practice plans	13
	Collect disability-specific supplies for emergency supplies kit	14 -15
	Create emergency supplies kits	17 - 19

Ability Self-Assessment

Use this checklist when considering your abilities and what type of help you will need in an emergency. You should read the general issues section, and then review all the specific sections that apply to you.

Ability Self-Assessment • General Issues

Yes	No	N/A	Do you know where all the fire alarms and extinguishers are in the places where you are regularly?
Yes	No	N/A	• Can you activate the fire alarms?
Yes	No	N/A	• Can you work a fire extinguisher?
Yes	No	N/A	• Have you practiced?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you know where the gas and water shut-offs are at your home?
Yes	No	N/A	• Can you get to them and use the needed tool to turn them off?
Yes	No	N/A	• Do you have instructions and tools available so other people can turn off the utilities if needed?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you have a standard telephone (one that does not need electricity) and do you know where it is?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you know the location of ALL the exits in places where you are regularly?
Yes	No	N/A	• Have you evaluated your ability to use them?
Yes	No	N/A	• Have you practiced using these exits?
Yes	No	N/A	Can you make an inaccessible exit accessible by using a portable ramp? If yes, have you considered getting one?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you thought about how you will evacuate if you can't use your own vehicle?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you thought about how you may be able to help others in an emergency? (For example, if you have no or low vision, you might be able to guide people through darkened spaces. If you are a calm person, you might be able to help others avoid panic.)
Yes	No	N/A	Have you checked with your local city to see if they have a registration for people with disabilities?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you planned for what you will do if your service animal becomes confused, frightened or disoriented? Are there other ways you can get around? (For example, by using sighted guides or members of your support team who can offer emotional support.)

Ability Self-Assessment • Travel

In hotels/motels/cruise ships and other lodgings:			
Yes	No	N/A	Have you considered whether you want a room on a higher floor, perhaps with a view, or on a floor where evacuation is easier for you?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you tell the staff that you will need help if there is an emergency and tell them what kind of help you may need?
Yes	No	N/A	If you have a significant hearing loss, do you ask for a room with visual alarms that are tied to the fire alarm system, doorbells and telephones?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you check the location of all exit routes (usually posted on the back of the guest room door)?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you track escape routes by counting the number of doors between your room and the emergency exit? Maps may be confusing unless you check them out before you need them.
Yes	No	N/A	If you use self-administered medical treatments, do you carry enough equipment and fluids in case there is a delay when you are traveling?

Ability Self-Assessment • Evacuating a Site after Normal Business Hours

Determine your risks if you are sometimes in a building after usual working hours (when there are fewer people around to help you).			
Yes	No	N/A	Can you contact other people after hours, including staff in the security or emergency control center?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you know how to reach emergency personnel in case of an emergency?

Ability Self-Assessment • Sight

Yes	No	N/A	If you rely on sound clues to get around (such as the hum of the copy machine by an elevator), will you be able to get yourself to safety if they are missing? You can't count on these clues if the electricity goes off or alarms are blaring.
Yes	No	N/A	Are there signs with raised and Braille characters that designate exits, direction to exits, and information on exit routes? Are floors designated by raised and Braille numbers or letters, including floor level signs in stairwells?
Yes	No	N/A	• Can you read the emergency signs in print or Braille?

Yes	No	N/A	If you wear contact lenses, do you either keep glasses with you or keep clear goggles in your emergency supply kit in case smoke, dust or fumes become painful or dangerous?
Yes	No	N/A	Can you use the two-way communication devices installed in the elevators and areas of refuge/rescue assistance?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you taught your support team how to serve as “sighted guides” if needed?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you marked your utility shut-off valves at home with fluorescent tape, large print or Braille labels?

Ability Self-Assessment • Hearing

Yes	No	N/A	Have you practiced having people communicate emergency information to you?
Yes	No	N/A	Does your building have two-way communication devices installed in the elevators and areas of refuge/rescue assistance?
Yes	No	N/A	• Have you practiced using them to make sure the system works?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you know the locations of text telephones or amplified telephones?
Yes	No	N/A	Do emergency alarm systems have audible and visible features (visual strobes)?
Yes	No	N/A	Are newer types of displays (TV monitors or scrolling text signs) available at your workplace? Will they work if the power goes out?
Yes	No	N/A	• Do you know their locations?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you have a portable communication device (PDA, pager, laptop, portable TTY)?
Yes	No	N/A	• Does it have a battery backup? (When buying a portable device, consider one that uses standard off-the-shelf batteries)
Yes	No	N/A	If available, do you know how to use text-messaging to access emergency information?
Yes	No	N/A	How will you communicate if there is no interpreter or if your hearing aids are not working?
Yes	No	N/A	• Do you carry paper and pens with you?

Ability Self-Assessment • Deaf – Blind

Yes	No	N/A	Do you have a support team? Since the audible alarms or flashing lights won't work for you, it is critical that you have a support team.

Ability Self-Assessment • Speech

Yes	No	N/A	Have you determined how you will communicate if you do not have use of your usual communication device?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you keep with you a copy of a word or letter board, paper and pens, and pre-printed phrases usable in an emergency?

Ability Self-Assessment • Memory, Learning and Understanding

Yes	No	N/A	Have you practiced how to communicate your needs?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you thought about how you might react in an emergency and how you will cope with any unhelpful reactions? Prepare your support team to help you with these planned strategies.
Yes	No	N/A	Have you prepared emergency information in a way that is easy for you to understand? You may want to break down the information into a step-by-step outline. This will help you remember what to do during a disaster.
Yes	No	N/A	Does your Emergency Health Information (see page 16) explain the best method to help you?

Ability Self-Assessment • Assistive Device Users

Yes	No	N/A	Have you determined what it will take to get your wheelchair or other equipment out of the building?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you told your support team how to operate and safely move your equipment if necessary?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you labeled equipment with simple instruction cards on how to operate it (for example, how to “free wheel” or “disengage the gears” of your power wheelchair)? Attach the cards to your equipment. Laminate them for durability.
Yes	No	N/A	• Do you keep a copy of these instructions with you and have you shared copies with your support team?
Yes	No	N/A	Have you thought about your options if you are not able to evacuate with your assistive device?

Ability Self-Assessment • Physical Mobility

Yes	No	N/A	Do you know the location of all exits and have you thought about your ability to use them?
Yes	No	N/A	Will you be able to independently evacuate from the site? How long will it take you?
Yes	No	N/A	• Will you need someone to help you walk down stairs quickly?
Yes	No	N/A	• Would it be faster if you used an evacuation device or were carried?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you know where all evacuation devices (used for people who can't go up and down stairs on their own) are stored? Have you practice using them?
Yes	No	N/A	Can you get in and out of evacuation devices by yourself or do you need help?
Yes	No	N/A	If you absolutely had to, could you bump down the stairs on your buttocks, crawl, etc.? Will you need something to strap on to protect your buttocks, gloves to protect your hands, etc.?
Yes	No	N/A	Do you know where emergency assembly areas and areas of refuge/rescue assistance are located?
Yes	No	N/A	Can you activate a fire alarm?
Yes	No	N/A	Can you give quick instructions about how to safely carry you if needed?
Yes	No	N/A	• Have you included any areas of vulnerability/concern regarding how to remove you safely from your chair?
Yes	No	N/A	Is it realistic for you to ask to be lifted in your chair (how much does it weigh with you in it)?
Yes	No	N/A	Is there a lightweight device you can use if you cannot evacuate with your wheelchair, respirator, or other power device?

Ability Self-Assessment • Allergies, Multiple Chemical Sensitivities, Respiratory Conditions

Yes	No	N/A	Do you carry supplies with you to accommodate your worst days:
Yes	No	N/A	• Industrial respirator with gas-mist filters? • Masks?
Yes	No	N/A	• Gloves?
Yes	No	N/A	• Inhaler?
Yes	No	N/A	• Nicotine gum you can offer to smokers who will want to smoke around you?
Yes	No	N/A	Does your emergency health information (see page 16) clearly explain your sensitivities and reactions and the most helpful treatments as well as those that are harmful? (You may not be able to describe your needs, so be specific. Other conditions, such as disorientation, aphasia, and panic, may be diagnosed and treated as something other than chemical sensitivity.)

Establish a Support Team

Build a support team of people who will help you in an emergency if necessary. They should be people who are regularly in the same area as you. The first people to assist in an emergency are often your neighbors, friends and co-workers. These people, not professional first responders, make seventy percent of rescues in major disasters.

The support team approach is based on the idea that if everyone is trained, everyone can help! When you train many people, you create a universal team. Build support teams with many people at every place where you spend a large part of your day: at work, home, school, or volunteer site. This is especially important when it is hard to predict who will be where you are at any given time.

Practice with different people to figure out who will best be able to help you. Personality traits to look for may include: strong; calm; listens well; communicates clearly; can guide you safely; and attends to important details.

Work with people who are dependable and have the physical and emotional ability to assist you reliably.

Buddy system and attendants – Do not rely on one person.

Do not depend on any one person. Buddy systems (choosing and training one person to assist you in an emergency) have weaknesses. You and your buddy may not be able to contact each other quickly in an emergency.

If you rely on personal assistance services (attendants), they may also not be available when you need them. Therefore, it is important that your support team include several people.

Plan multiple ways to give and get information.

Different communication systems work differently. In an emergency, some may work when others fail. The more systems you have available to you, the more likely it is that you will be able to contact other people. How many of these systems do you have?

- Cell phone
- E-mail
- Pagers
- Text messaging
- A standard phone that does not need electricity (most new phones, including cordless ones, need to be plugged into an electrical outlet)
- Low cost, two-way radios
- Portable radio and batteries

Master the skill of giving quick information on how best to help you.

In spite of your best planning, sometimes you have to build a support team on the spot. Think about what you will need, how you want it done, and what kind of people you want to work with if you have a choice. Be ready to give strangers all the information they need to be able to help you without causing injury. Be clear, specific and concise with your directions. Think about how much detail is necessary. Be ready with additional instructions.

Practice giving these instructions using as few words as possible. For example:

- Take my oxygen tank; right side of green bookcase. I can breathe without it for 15 minutes."
- Take my communication device from the table by the wall.
- Take my manual wheelchair.
- I can use steps independently, carry my other crutch and walk in front of me.
- I'm blind. Let me take your left arm above the elbow, and I'll follow you out.
- The traditional 'firefighter's carry' is hazardous for me because of my respiratory condition. Carry me by…
- You have to carry me out. Get an evacuation chair hanging at the top of 'stairway two' and I will tell you what to do next.

If communicating may be a problem, consider carrying preprinted messages with you, for example:

- I am deaf and do not speak. I use American Sign Language. Use gestures or write instructions using simple words.
- I cannot speak, but I do hear and understand. I use a communication device. I can point to simple pictures or key words. You will find a communication sheet in my wallet.
- I may have trouble understanding what you tell me. Speak slowly and use simple words.
- I have a psychiatric disability. I may become confused in an emergency. Help me find a quiet place, and I should be fine in about ten minutes.
- Diesel exhaust can kill me. Do not put me in or near idling emergency vehicles.

Create Emergency Plans

Keep a list of out-of-state friends or relatives that household members can call if you are separated during a disaster. It is often easier to call outside the affected area after an emergency, because long distance phone lines are often not jammed when local phone lines are. List contacts in priority order (the first person reached should call others on the list to let them know you are ok). Give each person on your contact list a copy. (See page 16.)

Also see:

National Organization on Disability

- Prepare Yourself, www.nod.org/emergency

Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities

- Disability Preparedness Resource Center, https://www.disability.gov/

American Red Cross

- Prepare your home and family – Persons with Disabilities, www.redcross.org

Charleston County

- Ready Lowcountry, www.charlestoncounty.org (Click on Ready Lowcountry banner)
- Disability Resource Center, www.drcilc.org

Plan for life-support devices that depend on electricity.

- Contact your local electric company about your power needs for life-support devices (home dialysis, suction, breathing machines, etc.) before a disaster. Some utility companies will put you on a “priority reconnection service” list. However, even with this “priority reconnection service”, your power could still be out for many days following a disaster. It is vital that you have power backup options for your equipment.
- Talk to equipment suppliers about your power options (backup batteries, generators, etc.).
- Let your fire department know that you are dependent on life-support devices.

Plan for devices that use rechargeable batteries.

- Plan how you will recharge batteries if the electricity is out. Check with your vendor/supplier to see if there are alternative ways to charge batteries (for example, by connecting jumper cables to a vehicle battery or by using a converter that plugs into your vehicle's cigarette lighter).
- Plan for other options. For example, sometimes you can substitute a car battery for a wheelchair battery but it will not last as long as a wheelchair's deep-cycle battery.

Home plans

Houses or apartment buildings are often less safe than high-rise office buildings. People are more likely to die in a fire at home than at work, and that risk is even greater for people with disabilities. Identify all the ways you can exit your home. Use the ideas in the self-assessment check-list about making your home safer.

Work, school and volunteer site plans

- Plan how you will evacuate and where you will go if an evacuation is ordered.
- Tag devices (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.) with your name, address and phone number in case you have to leave them behind.
- Learn and understand the emergency plans for family members and significant others in schools, day care centers and residential, assisted living and nursing home facilities.

Practice your plans.

Practice is important. It increases skill and confidence in your ability to cope in an emergency. Practice dealing with different conditions and unexpected situations, such as blocked paths or exits.

Make time to talk about and practice parts of your plan with your support team. This allows you and your team to focus on the parts of the plan that need more practice. Don't assume you'll know how to use an evacuation device when you need it. Make sure you and your support team practice using it.

Disability-Specific Supplies: Emergency Kits

Prepare different kits for different places and situations (see page 17):

- **Carry-on-you Kit:** Essential items you need to keep with you at all times.
- **Grab-and-go Kit:** Easy-to-carry kit you can grab if you have to leave your home, school or workplace in a hurry. Has items you cannot do without but are not so big or heavy that you cannot manage them.
- **Home Kit:** Large kit with water, food, first aid supplies, clothing, bedding, tools, emergency supplies and disability-specific items. Includes items you would most likely need if you had to be self-sufficient for days, either at home or in an evacuation shelter.
- **Bedside Kit:** Items you will need if you are trapped in or near your bed and unable to get to other parts of your home.

Tailor the contents of these kits to your needs and abilities. It is ideal to plan for supplies for up to two weeks (medication syringes, ostomy bags, catheters, padding, etc.). Do what is realistic for you. Know what you are able to carry in a fanny pack, backpack or drawstring bag hung from a wheelchair, scooter or other assistive device. If you can only carry a three-day supply of insulin in your grab-and-go kit, then that is what's right for you. Plan for what you can do.

Medications

- Plan for a possible 3 - 14 day disruption in your ability to get prescriptions refilled.
- Ask your doctors which of your medications are critical or life-sustaining and which ones you can do without for a few days or weeks. Ask your doctors how you can get an emergency supply of medications. If you cannot get an emergency supply, ask if it would be safe to go without one dose periodically until you have saved enough for an emergency.
- Get extra copies of prescriptions and put them with your emergency documents in all your kits.
- Rotate your medications. Take older ones out of your supply kit and use them before the expiration date. Replace them with a fresh supply.
- Ask your pharmacist about the best way to store your medications. Some are heat or cold sensitive.
- If you get medications or treatments (such as methadone, dialysis, infusion, chemo or radiation therapy, etc.) from a clinic or hospital, ask your health care provider what you should do in case of an emergency.
- If you are a smoker, be aware that smoking is not allowed in shelters. Consider putting nicotine gum or patches in your evacuation kit if getting to an outside smoking area might be difficult for you.
- Life in cramped, unheated shelters can increase the chances of pneumonia, influenza and colds. Stock your kit with any vitamins or medications you take to guard against getting sick and to cope with being sick.

Emergency Food

Choose emergency food that:

- You like and is ready-to-eat (does not need to be kept cold, prepared, or cooked)
- You are able to open (no breakable containers; if it is in cans, be sure you have a manual can opener that you are able to use)
- Is in containers you are able to pick up and drink from (not too heavy)
- Has a long shelf life

Emergency Documents

Store your emergency documents in sealed plastic freezer bags to keep them dry:

- Copies of prescriptions
- Contact list (see page 15)
- Emergency health information – This gives rescuers information about you if they find you unconscious or unable to give them information. It includes data about your medications, equipment, allergies, communication limitations, preferred treatment, medical providers and important contact information.
- A list of model and serial numbers for your equipment (pacemakers, hearing aids, communication devices, scooter, wheelchair, batteries, etc.)
- Insurance and benefits cards (health insurance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income [SSI]). If you get benefits from Social Security (SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance), include a copy of your most current award letter.
- Send copies of these documents to your out-of-state contact person (seal and mark them "open in an emergency for [name] only")

Service Animal Supplies

Keep a current photo of your service animal in the event that you are separated. Pack supplies in a pack that your animal can carry:

- Water and food (Remember to pack bowls for each)
- Blanket for bedding
- Plastic bags and paper towels for disposing of feces
- Neosporin ointment for minor wounds (Ask your veterinarian if there is anything specific you should include for your animal.)
- A favorite toy
- Extra harness leash (important items for managing a nervous or upset animal)
- Pad protectors (for hot asphalt, hot metal stairs, broken glass)
- Current identifications and licenses (Make sure the animal's tag has your telephone number and that of an out-of-state contact person.)

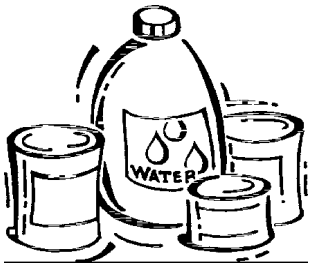
Out-of-State Contact List

This list identifies out-of-state friends or relatives that household members should call if separated during a disaster. List contacts in priority order (the first person reached needs to call others on this list to let them know you are ok). Give each person on your contact list a copy.

1. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
2. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
3. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
4. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
5. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
6. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
7. NAME	PHONE (HOME) PHONE (WORK)	CELL FAX	E-MAIL	ADDRESS

TIP: If you use telephone relay services, be sure your out-of-state contacts know that 7-1-1 is the universal code for these calls. It can be used anywhere in the country for voice-to-TTY calls.

Emergency Supplies



Carry on You	Home	Bedside	Grab-and-Go	Item
x	x	x	x	Store kits securely in a set place so they are easy to find.
	x	x	x	Keep important items in a consistent, convenient and secured place so you can quickly and easily get to them. (Items such as teeth, hearing aids, prostheses, canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, respirators, communication devices, artificial larynx, sanitary aids, batteries, eye-glasses, contact lens with cleaning solutions, etc.)
x	x	x	x	Emergency health information
x	x	x		Cell phone
	x	x		Standard telephone (that does need to be plugged into an electric outlet)
x		x	x	Essential medications
	x			Other medications
	x	x		Flashlights and extra batteries. (People with limited reach or hand movement should consider low cost, battery-operated touch lamps.)
x	x		x	Extra batteries for oxygen, breathing devices, hearing aids, cochlear implants, cell phone, radios, pagers or PDAs
x	x		x	Copies of prescriptions
	x	x	x	Emergency food
	x	x	x	Assorted sizes of re-closeable plastic bags for storing food & waste.
	x	x	x	Sturdy work gloves to protect your hands from sharp objects you may try to lift or touch by mistake while walking or wheeling over glass and rubble
x				Lightweight flashlight (on key ring, etc.)
	x	x	x	Small battery-operated radio and extra batteries
x	x	x	x	Signaling device you can use to draw attention to you if you need emergency assistance (whistle, horn, beeper, bell(s), screecher)
		x		A container that can be attached to the bed or nightstand (with cord or Velcro) to hold hearing aids, eyeglasses, cell phones, etc.; an oxygen tank attached to the wall; a wheelchair locked and close to bed (This helps prevent them from falling, flying or rolling away during a jarring, jolting event.)

Additional Information on Equipment and Supplies

If you use a wheelchair or scooter:

- Keep a patch kit and can of seal-in-air product in your portable disaster supplies kit to repair flat tires, unless they are puncture-proof. Also, keep an extra supply of inner tubes.
- Keep a pair of heavy gloves in your portable disaster supplies kit to use while wheeling or making your way over glass and debris.
- In areas prone to earthquakes, keep the wheelchair wheels locked and the wheelchair close to your bed at night to be sure it does not move or fall over.

If you use a motorized wheelchair or scooter:

- Have an extra battery. A car battery also can be used with a wheelchair but will not last as long as a wheelchair's deep-cycle battery.
- Check with your vendor to know if you can charge your battery by either connecting jumper cables to a vehicle battery or connecting batteries to a converter that plugs into a vehicle's cigarette lighter. Caution: Charge only one battery at a time.
- If available, store a lightweight manual wheelchair for backup.

If you are blind or have a visual disability:

- Store a talking or Braille clock or large-print timepiece with extra batteries.
- Have a high-powered flashlight with wide beam and extra batteries.
- Have at least one extra white cane.
- Mark your disaster supplies items with fluorescent tape, large print or Braille.
- Mark your gas, water and electric shutoff valves with fluorescent tape, large print or Braille.
- Store extra magnifiers.
- Have an extra pair of glasses if you wear them.
- Make photocopies of your information lists from this booklet.

If you are deaf or have a hearing loss:

- Consider getting a small, portable, battery-operated television set or a weather radio with visual/text display that warns of weather emergencies. Emergency broadcasts may give information in American Sign Language (ASL) or open captioning.
- Keep pads and pencils in your home disaster supplies kit and with your car disaster supplies. Keep them with you at all times for communication.
- Keep a flashlight, a whistle or other noisemaker, and pad and pencil by your bed.
- Keep in the disaster supplies kits (in your home and car) and with you at all times, a

card that indicates that you are deaf. Include any other appropriate communication information such as, "I do (or do not) know American Sign Language (ASL)," or, "My service animal may legally remain with me."

If you have a speech-related or communication disability:

- Consider buying a power converter if you use a laptop computer to communicate. A power converter allows most laptops (12 volts or less) to be operated from the cigarette lighter on the dashboard of a vehicle.
- Be sure to have pencil and paper with you as a backup communication resource.
- If you use an augmentative communication device (such as an electronic communicator or artificial larynx) that allows you to communicate by voice, be sure to keep it close to you at night in a safe place.
- Store copies of a word or letter board and preprinted key phrases you would use in case of an emergency in all of your disaster supplies kits, your wallet, purse, etc.
- If you use self-administered medical treatments –
- Keep in mind that traffic delays and/or severe weather hazards can happen when you do not expect them. Be sure to carry the equipment and fluids (temperature controlled) you will need when traveling.

If you have a cognitive disability:

- Keep a copy of any instructions or information you think you will need in the disaster supplies kits you keep both at home and in your car. Prepare this information in a way that is easy for you to understand. You may want to break down the information into a step-by-step outline. This format will help you remember what to do during the confusion of a disaster.
- Have a pencil and paper ready to keep track of any new instructions or information you may receive.
- Multiple Chemical Sensitivities, Breathing conditions –
- Keep towels, masks, industrial respirators or other supplies you can use to filter your air supply.
- Have a N95-rated particulate filter mask (protects against dust, radiological dust and biological agents)

For more information about disaster supplies kits, visit www.redcross.org.

Charleston County Evacuation Routes

When a hurricane or other hazards threaten South Carolina's coast, you may plan to leave voluntarily or you may be ordered to evacuate. Blue hurricane evacuation route signs are posted along roads to guide you inland to safety.

South Carolina local and state law enforcement officers and the South Carolina Army National Guard will be posted along these routes to assist you. Motorists who wish to deviate from the primary evacuation routes may experience delays or may not be allowed to change routes.

Motorists should be on the lookout for electronic message boards along the evacuation routes and should follow any instructions displayed. These boards may direct motorists to tune in to a local AM radio station to hear route-specific traffic information and other special emergency messages.

Edisto Island and Adams Run

- Take SC 174 to US 17.
- Take US 17 south to SC 64. This will take you to Walterboro, and then to North Augusta.

Yonges Island, Meggett, Hollywood, and Ravenel

- Take SC 165 to US 17, then US 17 south to SC 64.

Johns Island, Kiawah Island and Seabrook Island

- Johns Island takes SC 700 (Maybank Highway) to Road S-20 (Bohicket/Main Road) to US 17.
- Kiawah/Seabrook Islands will take Road S-20 (Bohicket/Main Rd.) to US 17.
- Take US 17 south to SC 64 where you will go to Walterboro, then to North Augusta

James Island and Folly Beach

- Take SC 171 (Folly Road) to US 17.
- Take US 17 south to I-526 east to the reversed lanes of I-26.

City of Charleston

- The west side of the city (West Ashley) will use SC 61 to US 78, then to Aiken and North Augusta.

- Downtown will use the normal west-bound lanes of I-26.

North Charleston

- Take US 52 (Rivers Avenue) to US 78 to US 178 to Orangeburg, or continue on US 52 to US 176, or continue north on US 52.
- The right lane of US 52 at Goose Creek will continue on to Moncks Corner. In Moncks Corner, it will be directed onto SC 6, where SC 6 will take you toward Columbia.
- The left lane of US 52 at Goose Creek will go on to US 176 to Columbia.
- Evacuees using SC 642 will travel west toward Summerville, and then take Road S-22 (Old Orangeburg Road) to US 78 west.

East Cooper

- *Mount Pleasant:* Take I-526 west or US 17 south to I-26 west.
- *Sullivan's Island*: Take SC 703 to I-526 Business to access I-526 west, and then take I-26 west.
- *Isle of Palms:* Take the Isle of Palms connector (SC 517) to go to US 17 where the right lane will turn north onto US 17. Next, proceed to take SC 41 to SC 402; then to US 52 to SC 375; then to US 521 to SC 261; and then US 378 to Columbia.

Note:

- Evacuees using the left lanes of the Isle of Palms connector will turn left to go to I-526 west and then on to I-26 west.
- Evacuees on I-526 west approaching I-26 from East Cooper will be directed to the normal lanes of I-26 westbound if in the right lane of I-526.
- Those in the left lane of I-526 will be directed into the reversed lanes of I-26.

Awendaw and McClellanville

- Take SC 45 to US 52, where you will be directed to the right onto US 52 to SC 375; then to US 521 to SC 261; and then to US 378 to Columbia.

Shelter

Emergency shelters may be opened with the approach of a hurricane to South Carolina. Shelters should generally be used as a place of last resort, as individuals and families are encouraged to have emergency plans in place. These plans should include relatives or friends with whom you can stay or locations to which you will travel. In the event that you must use a shelter, there is one type: American Red Cross. In the event of a major disaster, monitor local media outlets for information about the nearest open shelter. During an evacuation, listen for emergency alerts on the radio and look for road signs for shelter information.

NOTE: If you relocate to a shelter, be sure to bring blankets and pillows, food for the first day, and any necessary medications and sanitary supplies. It is highly recommended that you bring your Emergency Supplies Kit.

Transportation Assistance

If an **evacuation** is ordered and you do not have transportation, buses will be provided to take you from the following pick-up points to the nearest available shelter. In the event of an emergency, pay attention to local media for possible pick-up location changes.

Look for this sign designating a pick-up point location near you.

North Charleston #1 (Lower North Charleston)
Economy Inn & Suites – 5020 Rivers Avenue
Chelsey Point Center (Ship Watch) - 3655 Rivers Avenue
Military Magnet Academy - 2950 Carner Avenue
Felix Pinckney Community Center – 4790 Hassell Avenue
Food Lion at Remount Road & N. Rhett
Gussie Greene Community Center – 2012 Success Street
Bus stop at 2336 Meeting & Delaware Streets (Union Heights)
Fabian Shopping Center 4310 Rivers Avenue (Old Piggly Wiggly)
Felix C. Davis Community Center (Park Circle) - 4800 Park Circle
Ron McNair School – 3795 Spruill Avenue
Perry-Webb Community Center – 3200 Appleton Avenue
Evening of Prayer Church, Spruill & Echo Avenues (Union Heights)
Bus stop at Meeting & Hackeman Avenue (Union Heights)

North Charleston #2 (Upper North Charleston)
Ladson Elementary School - 3321 Ladson Road (Ladson)
Charleston Korean United Methodist Church - 2745 Shadow Drive (Deer Park)
Kmart Super Center - 8571 Rivers Avenue (Otranto)
Wal Mart - 7400 Rivers Avenue Unit A
North Charleston Center (Northern Tool) – 5900 Rivers Avenue
Pepperhill Elementary School – 3300 Creola Lane
BP at 2707 Ashley Phosphate Road & Stall Road
Rivers Park Business Center – 8085 Rivers Avenue

North Charleston #3 (Dorchester Road Corridor)
Goodwin Elementary School - 5501 Dorchester Road
Lambs Elementary School - 6800 Dorchester Road
Food Lion - 7550 Dorchester Road
Burns Elementary School - 3750 Dorchester Road
Oak Ridge Plaza (old Piggly Wiggly) - 5060 Dorchester Road
Brentwood Plaza – 4400 Dorchester Road

Mount Pleasant #1 (Arthur Ravenel Bridge to the Isle of Palms Connector)
The Plaza East Cooper Plaza – 615 Johnnie Dodds Blvd
Bi Lo - 1440 Ben Sawyer Boulevard
Public Library - 1133 Mathis Ferry Road
Moultrie Middle School (rear side) - 645 Coleman Boulevard
Town Center (Belk) - 1200 Belk Drive
Northcutt Plaza – 280 W. Coleman Blvd

Mount Pleasant #2 (North of the Isle of Palms Connector)
Guy C. Lee - 2985 Highway 17 North
OLD Laing Middle School - 2213 Highway 17 North
Jennie Moore Elementary School - 2735 Bullrush Basket Lane
Belle Hall Elementary School - 385 Egypt Road
"FUTURE" Lucy Garrett Beckman High School - 1560 Mathis Ferry Road
Harris Teeter – 2031 Hwy 41
Whitesides Elementary School – 1565 Rifle Range Road

Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island
Isle of Palms Recreation Center - 24 28th Avenue (Isle of Palms)
IOP US Post Office – 1000 Palm Blvd
Sullivan's Island Elementary School – 2014 Mike Perkis Place (Sullivan's Island)
Sunrise Presbyterain Church – 3222 Middle Street (Sullivan's Island)

Awendaw and McClellanville
South Santee Community Center - 710 S. Santee Road off Rutledge Road (South Santee)
McClellanville Middle School - 711 Pinckney Street (McClellanville)
St. James Santee Elementary School - 8900 Highway 17 North (McClellanville)
Berkeley Co-Op - 7200 Highway 17 and Union Rd (Awendaw)
Sawgrass Center – 6448 Highway 17 (Awendaw)
Seewee Outpost - 4853 Highway 17 North (Awendaw)
OLD Berkeley Co-Op - 3745 Highway 17 North and Lieben Road - (Mt. Pleasant)
Dollar General – 10141 Hwy 17N
McClellenville Dinner – 9905 Hwy 17N
Mt. Nebo AME Church – 5600 Hwy 17N
Greater Zion AME Church – 4174 Hwy 17N

Downtown Charleston
Charleston Progressive School - 382 Meeting Street
Archer Building-OLD Sanders Clyde Elementary School - 220 Nassau Street
Burke High School - 244 President Street
Joseph Floyd Manor - 2106 Mt. Pleasant Street
Gaillard Municipal Auditorium - 95 Calhoun Street
Memminger Elementary School – 20 Beaufain Street
Bridgeview Village Apt Complex – 108 D North Romney
Freddie Whaley Recreation Center – 1810 Doscher Avenue

West Ashley
Bi-Lo - 3125 Bees Ferry Road
West Ashley Middle School (Old Middleton High School) - 1776 William Kennerty Drive
Springfield Elementary School - 2741 Clover Street
St. Andrews Middle School (Old St. Andrews High School) - 721 Wappoo Road
Doscher's IGA - 1133 Savannah Highway (Highway 17)
Citadel Mall - 2070 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard
Publix Grocery Store - 1401 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston
Charleston First Assembly - 2957 Savannah Highway (Highway 17)
West Ashley Vet – 840 St. Andrews Blvd
West Wood Plaza – 1812 Sam Rittenberg Hwy
Home Depot – 2008 Magwood Drive
Publix – 3642 Savannah Hwy

James Island
Earth Fare - 74 Folly Road (South Windermere Shopping Center)
Fast Point Food Store - 1029 Harbor View Road (Harbor View Road at Quail Drive)
Wal-Mart – 1231 Folly Road and Griffith Road
Folly Beach Shopping Center - 907 Folly Road (Camp Road and Folly Road)
Harris Teeter – 1739 Maybank Highway and Folly Road
Hot Wheels – 1523 Folly Road
Camp Center – 1238 Camp Road
Harris Teeter – 1985 Folly Road and Sol Legare Road
Harris Teeter – 675 Folly Road
Murray Elementary School – 691 Riverland Drive
James Island High School – 1000 Ft. Johnson Road
Hideaway Pizza Kitchen – 608-AHarborview Road & Clearview, near Ft. Johnson

Folly Beach
Folly Boat Landing – Folly Road at ICW 97 Center Street

Johns Island
Charleston Executive Airport - 2700 Fort Trenholm Road (off River Road)
Mount Zion Elementary School - 3464 River Road
Charleston Collegiate (Sea Island Academy) - 2024 Academy Drive
Island Center Executive Offices - 3690 Bohicket Road # 3A
Bi-Lo - 3575 Maybank Highway (Main Road and Maybank Highway)
St. John's High School - 1518 Main Road
Food Lion – 2770 Maybank Hwy
Stono Market and Tomato Shed – 842 Main Road
Hebron Zion Presbyterain Church – 2915 Bohicket Road

Wadmalaw Island
Frierson Elementary School - 6133 Maybank Highway
New Jerusalem A.M.E. Church - 6179 Bears Bluff Road
Salem Presbyterian Church – 5591 Maybank Hwy

Kiawah Island and Seabrook Island
Newton Farm - 149 Village Green Lane (Kiawah Island)
Sheriff's Office Substation – 4305 Betsy Kerrison Parkway

Adam's Run
Adam's Run Civic Center - 5166 Highway 174
St. Paul's Fire Station – 5674 Hwy 174
Shilo Baptist Church - 5629 Parkers Ferry Road

Edisto Island
E-Z Stop - 2410 Highway 174
Jane Edwards Elementary School - 1960 Jane Edwards Road
True Value Hardware Store - 487 Hwy 174
Geechi Boy Grit Market and Mill – 2975 Hwy 174
Trinity Episcopal Church – 1589 Hwy 174
Enterprise Bank – 804 Oyster Park Drive

Hollywood, Ravenel and Yonges Island

Rantowles Baptist Church - 4590 Highway 162 (Hollywood)
Baptist Hill High School - 5117 Baptist Hill Road (Hollywood)
Allen AME Church (Meggett) - 6940 Ethel Post Office Road (Hollywood)
Minnie Hughes Elementary School - 8548 Willtown Road (Hollywood)
Mt. Horr A.M.E. Church - 4360 Highway 174 (Hollywood)
Ravenel Town Hall - 5962 Highway 165, Suite 100 (Ravenel)
CC Blaney Elementary School - 7184 Highway 162 (Yonges Island)
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church – 7404 Hwy 162
St. Paul's Episcpal Church – 4981 Chapel Hill Road
Calvery Baptist Church – 4744 Hwy 165
EB Ellington Elementary School – 5540 Old Jacksonboro Road

Transportation Notes:

If you have an animal to evacuate with you and you do not have transportation: Contact the Charleston County Emergency Public Information Line at (843) 746-3900, and a vehicle will be dispatched to transport you and your pet(s) to the evacuation animal shelter. Bring all supplies needed for your pet: crate, collar, leash, food, identification, veterinarian/immunization records, etc.

If you are disabled and cannot get to the nearest evacuation pick-up point: Contact the Charleston County Emergency Public Information Line at (843) 746-3900, and a vehicle will be dispatched to transport you to the nearest available shelter.

If you need transportation to the nearest shelter during a voluntary evacuation: Contact the Charleston County Emergency Public Information Line at (843) 746-3900 for assistance. Buses will not be picking up residents at the pick-up points during a voluntary evacuation.

Pay attention to local media for any pick-up location changes.

Special Needs Planning

If you have special needs, the following organizations can help you make a plan and register you for emergency assistance:

- **Medical Needs**
  S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at (843) 953 - 0038.
- **Mobility & Other Special Needs**
  Disabilities Resource Center at (843) 225 – 5080

Important Phone Numbers

Charleston County Emergency Management Department	**(843) 746 - 3800**
Charleston County Building Services (Preparing Your Home and Flood Zone Information)	**(843) 202 - 6930**
Disabilities Resource Center (Mobility Issues Assistance)	**(843) 225 - 5080**
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (Medical Needs Assistance)	**(843) 953 - 0038**
American Red Cross: Carolina Lowcountry Chapter	**(843) 764 - 2323**
S.C. Department of Transportation (Evacuation Traffic Information)	**(888) 877- 9151**
Charleston County Emergency Citizen's Information Line (Open only during Emergency Operation Center Activation)	**(843) 746 - 3900**
Charleston County Emergency Citizen's Information Line - *Spanish* (Open only during Emergency Operation Center Activation)	**(843) 746 - 3909**
Charleston County Emergency Citizen's Information Line - *TTY* (Open only during Emergency Operation Center Activation)	**(843) 746 - 3911**

CHARLESTON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

8500 Palmetto Commerce Parkway
Ladson, SC 29456

www.charlestoncounty.org

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