

*You can take small steps every day to become better able to survive an emergency. Get informed, identify your resources, make a plan, and create a Ready Kit and a Go Bag. **Start today! Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.***

PREPARE

- ❖ If you require help evacuating a building, create a plan with the assistance of your support network.
- ❖ Contact the safety director in buildings you visit regularly to help you identify an area where public safety officials will go to assist people during an emergency evacuation. If necessary, ask the director to consider purchasing evacuation assistive devices or ramps at emergency exits.
- ❖ If you require accessible transportation to evacuate an area you frequent, identify public and private resources available to you in emergency situations.

PLAN

- ❖ Create a support network; a support network consists of people who can help you develop your plan and may assist you during a disaster.
- ❖ Inform your network of where you keep your emergency supplies and give one member a key to your house or apartment.
- ❖ Contact your city or county government's emergency information management office. Many local offices keep lists of people with disabilities so they can be helped quickly in a sudden emergency.
- ❖ If you are dependent on dialysis or other life-sustaining treatment, know the location and availability of more than one facility.
- ❖ Show others how to operate your wheelchair. Know the size and weight of your wheelchair, in addition to whether or not it is collapsible, in case it has to be transported.
- ❖ If you use medical equipment in your home that requires electricity, talk to your doctor or health care provider about how you can prepare for its use during a power outage.
- ❖ Wear medical alert tags or bracelets. If you have a communication need, make sure your emergency information notes the best way to communicate with you.

STAY INFORMED

- ❖ Learn about the types of hazards that may impact your community. Check with your local Emergency Management Office (www.gema.ga.gov)
- ❖ Find out what emergency plans are in place in your community, workplace, service agencies, etc. Determine whether those plans have considered your functional needs.
- ❖ Identify the plan for notifying people when a disaster may be on its way or actually occurring.
- ❖ Consider how a disaster might affect your daily routines. Make a list of your specific needs before, during, and after a disaster.



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Do you use communication devices?
- ❖ Do you depend on accessible transportation to get to work or to other places in your community?
- ❖ Do you receive medical treatments (e.g. dialysis) on a regular basis?
- ❖ Do you need assistance with personal care?
- ❖ Do you rely on electrical equipment or other durable equipment?
- ❖ Do you use mobility aids such as a walker, cane, or a wheelchair?
- ❖ Do you have a service animal?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, go to: www.ready.gov or www.nod.org for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

September is National Preparedness Month. Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. FEMA's Ready Campaign educates and empowers Americans to prepare for, and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

WEB RESOURCES

- www.gema.ga.gov
- www.fema.ga.gov
- www.gachi.org
- <http://ada.georgia.gov>
- www.garrsinfo@gpb.org