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**Julius Suber:**    For the Georgia Radio Reading Service, (GaRRS), this is Julius Suber with this month’s segment of Be Prepared. Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications with the Georgia Department of Human Services is Ravae Graham. She says the Department of Human Services helps Georgians during emergencies.

 **Ravae Graham:**   When there is an emergency, the Georgia Department of Human

Services provides assistance to those in need through programs such as the Disaster SNAP Program, which is disaster food assistance program. What that does is, usually when a disaster strikes there might be family that have lost their food due to the damage or power being out for an extended period of time and they may need to replenish their food.

**Julius Suber:**     Graham explains further:

**Ravae Graham:**  Normally, sometimes would not qualify for the food stamp program,

but since it’s a disaster they need this quick assistance, they would provide that food assistance through the disaster food assistance program. Sometimes these programs are not announced. You cannot know what area is receiving that assistance until after disaster strikes and you will start seeing the releases and the news messages and news partners give out the information on where you can receive that much-needed assistance during the disaster.

**Julius Suber:** Graham says the Georgia Department of Human Services can also

establish shelters during times of emergency.

**Ravae Graham:** When a disaster strikes, sometimes they set up these shelters to

provide assistance for those who need help. If you are wondering if there’s a shelter available in your area to provide assistance, please check with your local DFACS office and they should be able to provide that information on a center where you can apply for disaster food assistance or provide any help that you might need in the time of a disaster.

**Julius Suber:** In the meantime, though, Graham says you should prepare first.

**Ravae Graham:** You know in preparation for any emergency or disaster, as a state

we recommend that you make sure you have an emergency plan available and ready. You know, making sure you have those important contacts and numbers and know how to reassure your loved ones. Making sure that you have a place that, you know, where you all can meet if a disaster strikes and be able to check in with one another. Making sure that you have enough rations for a couple of days to make sure that you have food and bottled water available, that you may be able to have on hand just in case you’re not able to have a clean resource of water or food after the disaster strikes.

**Julius Suber:** And for people with disabilities, Graham recommends:

**Ravae Graham:** We also ask that if you’re a person with disabilities or disablements that you make sure that you keep a full list of any equipment that you might need, keep the serial numbers and anything like that. So if you’re looking for assistance, you might not have that equipment because it got damaged in the storm. People can know what they’re looking for so they can make sure you have that equipment available if needed after the disaster. Making sure you have a list of medications that you take so people can know what medications it is that you use, and make sure that you’re getting that well-needed medication that you might need. Another thing that you might want to make sure you have is make sure you have yourself a nice radio, an AM/FM radio that operates on batteries, so you can make sure you receive your updates just in case when those updates might come on when you can locate your local shelter or if there’s disaster assistance available in your area.

**Julius Suber:** The mission of the Georgia Department of Human Services is to

provide Georgia with customer-focused human services that promote child and adult protection, child welfare, stronger families, and self-sufficiency. For more information about the Georgia Department of Human Services call (404) 651-6316 or visit Georgia.gov/departmentofhumanservices. You can also learn more about emergency preparedness by visiting the web site ready.ga.gov. For the Georgia Radio Reading Service (GaRRS) in conjunction with Georgia’s ADA Coordinator’s office and the many agencies who comprise the Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults, this is Julius Suber with Be Prepared.

***(Music)***

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