



READY TO RESPOND

NEWSLETTER



CITY OF CHARLESTON

MAY 2016

CHARLESTON FIRE DEPT

Functional Needs Preparedness Tips

Find important tips on how you can prepare for a disaster

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Functional Needs Preparedness

It is important to be prepared prior to any disaster, but it is absolutely critical to have a plan in place for those who have functional needs such as the hearing impairment, mentally handicapped, or those who are wheelchair bound. Having a plan in place for individuals with functional needs will not only save time, but potentially a life.

PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR INDIVIDUAL WITH FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

➤ Make a Go Bag

A Go Bag is just that, a bag with items that you can grab in a hurry and go in an emergency. Some items to include in the bag are as follows:

- Change of clothes
- Money
- Medicine
- Water
- Nonperishable food items
- Flashlight
- Any needed medical devices, such as hearing aids, Oxygen, or extra batteries to power medical devices



Functional Needs Resource Agencies

Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Illinois Deaf & Hard of Hearing Commission

Illinois Dept. of Human Services

Illinois Dept. on Aging

Illinois Emergency Management Agency



PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR INDIVIDUAL WITH FUNCTIONAL NEEDS CONT.

➤ Make a Plan

- Make a list of personal needs and how you will meet them in a disaster environment.
- Consider what additional help you may need to take care of a loved one with a functional need.
- How are you going to evacuate if needed?
- Does the location you are evacuating to have the capabilities of assisting with individuals with functional needs?
- Be aware of the limitations of a power back up system that relies on batteries
- Make a communications plan
- Make prior arrangements with suppliers to get needed medical supplies during an emergency

➤ Be Informed

- During times of disaster stay tuned to local media outlets for instructions
- Have a weather radio available
- Contact State and Federal Agencies for resources and guidance for individuals with functional needs.



For more resources for disaster preparedness for individuals with functional needs visit the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Website at:

<http://www.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Pages/FunctionalNeeds.aspx>



Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Press Release
**IEMA Highlights Preparedness for People
with Access and Functional Needs in May**

*Ready Illinois website offers emergency preparedness tips for people
with functional needs and their caregivers*

SPRINGFIELD – The minutes and hours following a disaster can be scary and stressful for anyone. Emergency preparedness, such as a home emergency supply kit and a plan for how family members will communicate in a disaster, can ease post-disaster stress. For households with members who have disabilities, functional needs or may need assistance during an emergency, disaster preparedness can be a matter of life or death.

Throughout May, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and local emergency management agencies will highlight the importance of disaster preparedness for people with functional and access needs.

“Illinois is susceptible to many types of hazards, such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, floods, and ice storms, that can create dangerous situations, particularly for those who may need some type of assistance,” said IEMA Director James K. Joseph. “We have information that can help people and their caregivers take actions to help them stay safe during and after a disaster.”

Joseph said the Ready Illinois website offers a guidebook with preparedness tips for people with visual, cognitive or mobility impairments; people who are deaf or hard of hearing; those who utilize service animals or life support systems; and senior citizens. The guide, *Emergency Preparedness Tips for Those with Functional Needs*, is available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.

For each functional need, the guidebook provides a list of supplemental items for a disaster kit, tips on developing an emergency plan, suggestions on how to be better informed about community emergency planning and a checklist of preparedness activities.

The Ready Illinois website also offers more than two dozen preparedness videos in American Sign Language on such topics as what to do before, during and after tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flooding, how to build an emergency supply kit, and what to do if you’re instructed to evacuate. The videos were developed in collaboration with the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.