



People with Special Needs and Disabilities in Emergencies

When preparing emergency kits, extra supplies should be included to suit any special needs such as:

- Assistive devices e.g. canes, walkers, hearing aids, breathing apparatus
- Prescription eyewear and footwear
- Extra medications and medical supplies to last for seven days
- Copies of prescriptions
- Extra personal toiletries e.g. dentures and cleaner

It is recommended that people with special needs create a network of family members, friends, and co-workers who could assist in an emergency situation. The network members should know how to operate any special equipment and be able to alert the person with special needs of an emergency. Practice the plan you make together.

Wear a medical alert bracelet or other identification or medical conditions.

Discuss emergency plans with home care providers and primary care physician.

If you require life-sustaining equipment that is electrically powered, notify your local hydro provider. They cannot guarantee a continuous supply of electricity, but may be able to prioritize your location when re-establishing service, if feasible.

Additional recommendations for those with special needs and people who are assisting those with special needs can be found in the Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Special Needs/Disabilities from Emergency Management Ontario.

