



**TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK**  
**227 PHILLIPS AVE**  
**SOUTH HACKENSACK NJ 07606**  
**201-440-1815 ext. 165**  
**201-440-0719 FAX**



## **EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

In Bergen County we are vulnerable to all types of severe weather & man made disasters. Besides these types, scattered power outages do occur more often than in the past. Below is some advice for people with special needs:

You must ask the following key questions:

If you are asked to evacuate, do you have transportation? How will you get there? While you may not normally need the services of the local transportation provider, will you need their services during an emergency? Are you registered to receive these services?

Flood zones and mobile homes are the primary areas from which you should evacuate, but you need to decide whether you will stay or go, even if evacuation is not mandatory. If you are going to leave the area leave early and advise the police department.

If electricity goes out for three or more days, can you stay in your home? Do you use any durable medical equipment that needs electricity to function? If your equipment is battery operated, how can your batteries be recharged?

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, since most of the media coverage is by radio or television, do you have a support system to let you know what is going on?

If you have a personal care attendant that comes to your home or place of employment, what happens if they cannot get to you?

Will you have enough medication or medical supplies to last at least two weeks? Do you have medications that need to be refrigerated?

Do you have plans for your service animal or pet? Do you have food and water to last at least 72 hours?



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It is essential to pay attention to local emergency managers and if directed to, be prepared to evacuate. If required to evacuate a shelter may or may not be the best place for you. Don't assume that all people with disabilities should go to a "special needs" shelter. Do you have family or friends who can provide you a safe structure in which to stay? If you are dependent on electricity, need transportation to evacuate, or need assistance because of age or disability it is important that you are on your township register.

Some information you need to consider if you have any disabilities:

Do you use a wheelchair or scooter, if so is it motorized?

If you are blind or have a visual disability?

Do you have a hearing loss or are you deaf?

Do you have a speech-related or communication disability?

Do you have an emergency plan and is it tested?

Answers to these and other questions can be answered by calling our department at 201-440-1815 ext 165. The state of New Jersey is in the process of creating a special population registry for all people with disabilities.

Thank you and stay safe.

Michael J Ward  
OEM Coordinator