

# Special Needs Resource Guide

## Ideas To Help Citizens Prepare for a Hurricane

- 1** Don't assume everyone has a survival plan. In particular, the elderly and those with special needs may need extra information or assistance. Look around, take notice and ask them if they have plan. If the person does not know the answer, ask if there is a local caregiver or friend who can help. If the answer is still no, and the person needs assistance, refer them to special needs registration.
- 2** Encourage those who need to stay in a special needs shelter to preregister by calling 464-3800. Go the extra step and help make the call or download the form at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm) and help them fill it out. It can be submitted online or mailed to Pinellas County Emergency Management at 400 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756.
- 3** Resources to share for additional assistance are listed below and on the back. Many of these require online research to obtain printed instructions for special needs persons and the elderly. Not listed are neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, CERT teams and local fire departments, many of which may help those in need of preparation assistance. A person without Internet access can call 2-1-1 for resource and referral assistance.
- 4** Go to the Pinellas County Emergency Management website at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency) and read the information on the special needs page to be aware of what is required and recommended. Understand there are reasons some people in our community do not plan to evacuate: fear of the unknown, reluctance to place a pet in a temporary shelter, the lack of assistance or funds, a frail physical or mental condition, complicated medical equipment or not knowing where to go. In these cases, you can be a friendly encourager by offering to help them overcome their obstacle or by referring them to someone who can help. (See resources below.)
- 5** Help spread life-saving information. Educational flyers and printable checklists are posted for download at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency). These can be copied and handed out to anyone who needs the information. A small poster is also available for download which can be displayed throughout the community.
- 6** Be an advocate for those who need help in our community by coordinating an outreach program with your community organization or place of worship. One easy way to help is by making copies of the special needs registration form and passing them out at your place of worship or neighborhood meetings.
- 7** Talk with your employer, community organization or place of worship about coordinating the voluntary Host Homes program to help provide needed shelter. Learn about the Host Homes program at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/hosthomes.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/hosthomes.htm) and be a part of the solution.

## Pinellas County Government Resources

### Emergency Management

1. To register for special needs shelter or transportation, call (727) 464-3800.
2. To learn more about what is required of healthcare facilities, go to [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/Home\\_Care.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/Home_Care.htm).

### Animal Services

1. To preregister to stay in a pet shelter, call (727) 582-2150.
2. If going to a special needs shelter, call (727) 582-2600 to arrange for a host home for your pet.

### Community Development

To apply for low-interest, home-improvement loans for hurricane protection, call (727) 464-8210. (Available to low-income families with a house value under \$151,000.)

### Communications

To request a speaker for an organization, call (727) 464-4600.

## Other Resources in Pinellas County

### Pinellas County Health Department

(727) 820-4155

### Fire Departments

Each local fire department has a special needs liaison.

### Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas

(727) 570-9696

[www.agingcarefl.org](http://www.agingcarefl.org)

### Florida Elder Helpline for Pinellas County

(727) 217-8111

### 2-1-1 Tampa Bay

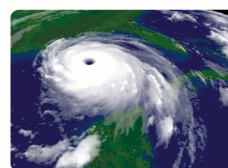
*Residents of Pinellas County can call 2-1-1 to find local agencies that can help them.*

[www.211tampabay.org](http://www.211tampabay.org)

### Caring and Sharing Center for Independent Living

[www.cascil.org](http://www.cascil.org)

(727) 577-0065 (voice/TDD)



# SURVIVING THE STORM

IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

## State and National Resources for Disaster Preparedness Education

Many of these agencies provide materials in large font, audio or video cassette formats, and different languages.

### **The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities**

*Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities*  
[www.advocacycenter.org/](http://www.advocacycenter.org/)

### **Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

<http://apd.myflorida.com/>

### **American Red Cross, Tampa Bay Chapter**

[www.redcross.tbc.org](http://www.redcross.tbc.org)  
(813) 348-4820

### **The Center for an Accessible Society**

[www.accessiblesociety.org/](http://www.accessiblesociety.org/)

### **Community Emergency Response Teams**

[www.floridadisaster.org/citizencorps/](http://www.floridadisaster.org/citizencorps/)

### **Disability Preparedness Resource Center**

[www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/](http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/)

### **Easter Seals (s.a.f.e.t.y. First program)**

[http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl\\_safety\\_first](http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_safety_first)  
(800) 221-6827 (voice) • (312) 726-4258 (TTY)

### **Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

#### **Florida Division of Blind Services**

[http://dbs.myflorida.com/observances/hurricane\\_safety.php](http://dbs.myflorida.com/observances/hurricane_safety.php)

### **Florida Department of Elder Affairs**

*Disaster Preparedness Guide for Elders*  
available in English and Spanish online  
<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>  
(850) 414-2000

### **Florida Division of Emergency Management/State Emergency Response Team (SERT)**

[www.floridadisaster.org/disabilities.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/disabilities.htm)

### **Florida Institute for Family Involvement**

*Disaster Preparation for Families of Children with Special Needs*  
[www.fifionline.org](http://www.fifionline.org)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

<http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/>  
(800) 480-2520

### **Humane Society of the U.S. (Disaster Center)**

[www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/)  
(202) 452-1100

### **Centers for Independent Living/ Independent Living Research Utilization**

<http://www.ilru.org/index.html>  
<http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/directory/florida.html>

### **National Organization on Disability**

[www.nod.org/emergency](http://www.nod.org/emergency)  
(202) 293-5960 (voice) • (202) 293-5968 (TTY)

### **National Spinal Cord Research Association Resource Center on Emergency Preparedness**

<http://www.spinalcord.org/resources/index.php?link=E&list=24>  
(800) 962-9629

### **NOAA Weather Radio**

[www.weather.gov/nwer/special\\_needs.htm](http://www.weather.gov/nwer/special_needs.htm)

### **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
(800) BE READY (voice) • (800)464-6161 (TTY)

### **United Spinal Association**

[www.unitedspinal.org](http://www.unitedspinal.org)  
(718) 803-3782

### **United Way of Tampa Bay – Disaster Relief Resources**

[http://uwtb.com/subpages/disaster\\_relief\\_resources.asp](http://uwtb.com/subpages/disaster_relief_resources.asp)

### **Volunteer Florida**

[www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org)

