Disaster Planning Guidelines TIPS: Tropical Storms and Hurricanes

Emergencies and disasters can happen anytime and any place. Disasters and emergency situations can result in power outages, limited access to medical attention, medications, and a need for supplies. We must do our best to plan for our family's safety and care during an emergency. All families should have an emergency plan in place; families of children with special needs will need an emergency plan that addresses the unique needs of their child. For example, the plan should address what to do if your child or youth:

- Is dependent on electricity to breathe, to be fed, and to stay comfortable
- Cannot be moved easily because of his/her medical condition or attachment to equipment
- Uses a wheelchair, walker, or other device to move
- Cannot survive extreme temperatures, whether hot or cold
- Becomes afraid or agitated when sudden changes happen
- Cannot independently evacuate or leave the home in an emergency due to physical or emotional reasons

THINK AHEAD AND PLAN for Your Child with Special Needs

- Do you have a current care plan and a list of medications from your child's physician?
- Do you have refills available for current medications and/or current prescriptions for Class 2 medications?
- Do you have at least a two week supply of medication and supplies for your child?
- Do you have an emergency information form (EIF) filled out with your child's information?
- Do you have back-up systems or plans for medical equipment that require electricity?
- Have you discussed with your child's doctor what the best place is for your child in the event of a disaster?
- Are your local emergency management teams and neighbors aware that you have a child with special needs and are they familiar with those needs?
- Do you have a disaster plan for your child while he/she is at school, day activities, church, etc.?
- Have you shared your disaster plan with someone who can check in with you to make sure that you are ok and that you are able to address your child's care needs?
- Do you have your child's medical records available to take with you wherever you go?

Please visit <u>www.floridadisaster.org</u> to access the links below Or CALL 1-800-342-3557 for Emergency & Preparedness Information

Shelter Information Index	County Emergency Management Offices	
Index to shelter information by county	County emergency management contacts and websites	
<u>Evacuation Zone and Route Maps</u> <u>National Hurricane Center</u>		
Evacuation zone and route maps to help you evacuate safely	Latest information from the National Hurricane Center	
<u>AlertFlorida</u> <u>Currently Open Shelters</u>		
Sign up for emergency alerts	List of currently open shelters (and when they are opened)	
<u>FLGetAPlan.com</u>	<u>Travel and Roadways</u>	
Create a family or business preparedness plan	Latest information on traffic and roads from Florida 511	

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