

Disaster Tips for People With Visual Disabilities

CANES

- ❖ If you use a cane, keep extras in strategic, consistent and secured locations at work, home, school and volunteer site to help you maneuver around obstacles and hazards.
- ❖ Keep a spare cane in your emergency kit.

ALTERNATIVE MOBILITY CUES

- ❖ If you have some vision, place security lights in each room to light paths of travel. These lights plug into electric wall outlets and light up automatically if there is a loss of power. They will, depending on type, continue to operate automatically for 1 to 6 hours and can be turned off manually and used as a short-lasting flashlight.
- ❖ Store high-powered flashlights with wide beams and extra batteries.
- ❖ Plan for losing the auditory clues you usually rely on after a major disaster.

- ❖ Service animals may become confused, frightened or disoriented during and after a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. A leash/harness is an important item for managing a nervous or upset animal. Be prepared to use alternative ways to negotiate your environment.

LABEL SUPPLIES

- ❖ If helpful, mark emergency supplies with large print, fluorescent tape or Braille.

SECURE COMPUTERS

- ❖ Anchor special equipment and large pieces of furniture such as computers and shelving. Create a computer back-up system for important data and store it off site.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

- ❖ TV news shows not only post important phone numbers, but also announce them slowly and repeat them frequently for people who cannot read the screen.

(Developed by: The Independent Living Resources Center
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