



National Network

Information, Guidance and Training on the
Americans with Disabilities Act

Call us toll-free
1-800-949-4232 V/TTY

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Evacuation Transportation Planning Tips for People with Access and Functional Needs

Are you ready to safely leave your home, neighborhood, school, or work during an emergency? You may have to evacuate with some notice, with little notice or without any notice.

The need for an evacuation is often caused by events such as storms, floods, fires and sometimes hazardous spills or earthquakes. You may have:

- Several days of warnings, such as in an approaching big storm,
- A short period of warning, such as an hour or less, or
- No warning, such as when there is a fast moving fire, or chemical spill.

Not knowing what amount of warning you may have, it is important that you create your evacuation plan ahead of time. Being ready to go can have a direct impact on your family, your independence, your health and your safety.

Evacuation in an emergency can be more challenging for some people with disabilities and activity limitations. Also, during an evacuation, often more people need transportation than available resources can support. This checklist will help you to prepare for transportation if you need to evacuate.

Review and update this checklist every six months (one way to remember to do this is when you set your clocks forward in the spring and back in the fall).



Evacuation Transportation Planning Checklist for People with Access and Functional Needs

Date Complete	Does not Apply	Item
If You Need Transportation		
		Create a support team* for home
		Create a support team* for work
		Create a support team* for school
		Create a support team* for other places where you spend time
		Are support teams aware of your specific needs in an emergency?
		Confirm if your support team can provide you with transportation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that they have room for you in their vehicle in addition to themselves and their family or others
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure that their vehicles are accessible to you and your equipment
		Contact local transportation providers to see if they will be able to help you in an emergency. (Make sure that this is not your only plan!)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do they keep a list of those needing help with transportation?

* Support teams are groups of people who are willing to help you in an emergency. Often people think first responders like firefighters, police officers and paramedics will help us in a major emergency. The reality is that most of the time friends, coworkers and neighbors end up doing the first responding.



Date Complete	Does not Apply	Item
If You Have a Vehicle		
		Make a plan in advance identifying who will drive
		Prepare your vehicle
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always keep your fuel tank at least half full.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill up your gas tank early to avoid any shortages in fuel supplies.
		Plan where you can go if you want to avoid staying in a shelter. Make sure your lodging options are varying distances and directions away (10 miles, 50 miles, neighboring city or state)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are considering hotels or motels, call ahead for a reservation. Hotels will fill up quickly. Check their policies on pets.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk with friends and family about the option of staying with them in an emergency. Reconfirm these plans once a year and also confirm multiple options for places to stay.
		Pack your car and leave as soon as evacuation orders are given.
		Check local news for updates on evacuation routes, detours and the location of evacuation centers and shelters.
		If possible, leave a note inside your home saying that you have left and where you are going.



Customize your grab-and-go car supply (evacuation) kit		
		Plan like you're going camping. Make sure to include the following in your grab-and-go car supply kit:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell phone and car charger
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottled water; food that will not go bad as you may be stuck in traffic for hours without access to stores
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food for service animals and pets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medications
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies of or list of prescriptions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctor's contact information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extra warm clothes and shoes for cold weather
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tissues and toiletries
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several sizes of plastic bags which can be helpful if restrooms along the route are closed, out of order or overcrowded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blankets or sleeping bags
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State and local maps. You may end up far from home and detours are common.



If you would like to...Get involved in planning

Your local transit providers and emergency responders need your input on issues facing people with disabilities. Consider offering input on issues facing people with disabilities. Transit providers and emergency planners benefit from getting real world advice from users and it prevents “a lot about us without us” planning.

You may be just the right person to do this if you:

- Identify as an individual with a disability
- Have a user’s view and perspective
- Have personal experience with disability and disability advocacy
- Can speak broadly on disability issues as opposed to only addressing your needs
- Are connected to and involved with parts of the disability community

Can represent the concerns of other members of the disability community and communicate with them about this planning.

Sources for More Information

Emergency Evacuation Preparedness Guide – A guide on emergency evacuation preparedness plans for people with disabilities and activity limitations.

- Download the guide (Microsoft Word) here:
<http://cdihp.org/evacuation/emergency_evacuation.doc>
- Download the guide (PDF) here:
<http://cdihp.org/evacuation/emergency_evacuation.pdf>
- The guide (Text) can be found here:
<http://www.cdihp.org/evacuation/emergency_evacuation.txt>
- The guide (Web version) can be found here:
<<http://cdihp.org/evacuation/toc.html>>

Grab & Go List – How to create a list of the items you will need during an evacuation.

- Download a sample form (Microsoft Word) here:
<http://pascenter.org/documents/Grab_and_Go_List_Sample.docx>
- Download a blank form (Microsoft Word) here:
<http://pascenter.org/documents/Grab_and_Go_List_Blank_form.docx>

Webcast: Evacuation Issues For People With Disabilities

<<http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/NOD/player.cfm>>

For more information, call and speak to an ADA specialist at **1-800-949-4232**. All calls are confidential.



Content was developed by the Pacific ADA Center, and is based on professional consensus of ADA experts and the ADA National Network.



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