

Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities

Tips For People With Communication Disabilities

Communication

- Determine how you will communicate with emergency personnel if you do not have your communication devices (augmentative communication device, word board, artificial larynx).

Communication Aids

- Store paper, writing materials, copies of a word or letter board and pre-printed key phrases specific to anticipated emergencies in all your emergency kits, your wallet, purse, etc.

Emergency Health Information Card

- Make sure your emergency health information card explains the best method of communication for you (written notes, pointing to letters/words/pictures, finding a quiet place).

Alternative Power Source

- Obtain an alternative power source (power converter, batteries) if you use a computer or laptop as a means of frequent communication.

Checklist

- Determine your ideal method of communication in the event of an emergency and be prepared to use it.
- Store communication aids in all of your emergency kits.
- Make an emergency health information card and be sure to include your communication needs.
- Store batteries or chargers for communication equipment.

Excerpted from:

Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco
(<http://www.ilrcsf.org/resources/publications.shtml>)