

If You Need Transportation or Have a Medical or Physical Condition Which Requires Special Care...

Particularly if you live alone, you should take steps to prepare for your possible evacuation during a threatening hurricane:

- Discuss your medical/health condition with your physician and determine what essentials you will require;
- Predetermine your evacuation destination, such as a friend's or relative's house, motel/hotel, nursing home, hospital or emergency public shelter;
- Arrange for your specific needs and care at your predetermined evacuation destination (medication, oxygen, special care or diet, etc.);
- Arrange for your transportation needs with a neighbor, friend, relative or private transportation provider;
- If you cannot secure appropriate transportation and/or require special medical care and have NO OTHER alternative, register with the People With Special Needs (PSN) Program of the Orange County Health Services Department.

- Pets are not allowed in Shelters. Call friends/relatives, local kennels, veterinarians or the humane society to make prior arrangements for your pet's care and safety. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Orange County Animal Services Department at 407-352-4390.

If You Take Prescription Medication Daily...

- Purchase an extra supply of the medication; AND...
- Acquire specific medical identification and carry it with you;

If You are Dependent on Oxygen, Electrical Power for Life Support Equipment, or Require an Electric Wheelchair...

- Acquire a portable unit;
- Acquire an extra supply of oxygen, a portable generator and an extra supply of fuel. Be sure to store the fuel properly;
- Acquire extra batteries and make sure that they are fully charged;
- Make arrangements for early evacuation; and...
- Be sure to take extra medical supplies such as oxygen tubing, catheter/colostomy supplies, syringes, etc. with you.

What Should I Take to an Emergency Public Shelter?

Remember: A Shelter is a lifeboat, not a cruise ship and should be used ONLY as a LAST resort. Everyone is encouraged to seek alternatives to public shelters. If you have NO other alternatives, you must bring with you a minimal number of supplies for your stay at the shelter. These may include:

- **Specific, medical identification (Medicaid, Medicare, insurance cards) and a brief and current medical history;**
- **A two-week supply of daily prescription medicines;**
- **Nonprescription medicines, such as aspirins, antacids, etc.;**
- **Nonperishable food and water, (enough for three days);**
- **Blanket, pillow, folding chair or cot;**
- **Changes of clothing;**
- **Manual can/bottle opener;**
- **Other special items, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, inhalers, oxygen, thermometer, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) papers, and special dietary foods, etc.; AND**
- **Bring your caregiver with you.**

Who Should Consider Pre-Hurricane Evacuation Planning a Must?

In general, everyone should be prepared. Since Orange County is not a coastal area, the danger by tidal surge is not a factor. High winds and the possibility of localized flooding, however, make the following populations vulnerable:

- Residents of mobile homes or manufactured housing;
- Persons living in low-lying areas prone to flooding; and
- Persons with special medical requirements.

IMPORTANT!

When a major storm approaches, many people begin voluntary evacuation well in advance. Road networks become congested, commercial lodging facilities fill quickly and public shelters can reach their capacity early. For your safety and convenience:

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!
MAKE YOUR EVACUATION
DECISIONS EARLY!**

How is Hurricane Information Announced?

Information concerning evacuation is broadcast over local radio and television stations. Stay tuned to the local Emergency Alert System Station, WDBO, 580, on the AM dial for official information. The official sources of emergency information are advisories, bulletins, and reports issued by the National Weather Services and the Orange County Emergency Operations Center.

If required, the Governor of the State of Florida, The Orange County Board of County Commissioners or appropriate municipal officials may issue an official hurricane evacuation order. Ask a neighbor, friend or relative to confirm the official evacuation order. Do not listen to unconfirmed rumors.

Advisories and Warnings...

Thanks to modern detection and tracking devices, the National Weather Service can usually provide 12 to 24 hours of advanced warning. When hurricanes approach land, the Weather Service of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issues advisories and warnings.

A "Hurricane Watch" is issued whenever a hurricane becomes a threat to coastal areas. Everyone in the area covered by the "Watch" should listen for further advisories and be prepared to act promptly if a "Hurricane Warning" is issued.

A "Hurricane Warning" is issued when hurricane winds of 74 miles an hour or higher, or a combination of dangerously high water and very rough seas are expected in a specific coastal area within 24 hours. Precautionary actions should begin immediately.

Listen to your local radio stations and keep informed about changing weather conditions. Make the necessary arrangements ahead of time so that you will be prepared to act when needed. Once a storm has been determined to be a threat to Orange County, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated. During this time, citizens with questions may call the Citizen Emergency Information Center number: 407-836-3111.

Please Note:
**Citizen Emergency
Information Center**
407-836-3111

What is the Special Needs Program?

The Special Needs Program is designed to provide hurricane assistance for those with no other alternatives, and for those who need transportation assistance to evacuate and/or have a health/medical condition that requires medical attention in a shelter. Residents of nursing, convalescent and retirement homes, adult congregate living facilities must expect and depend on management for group evacuation of their own patients. All individuals, however, must take the necessary steps in advance to prepare for emergencies. Many tips are included in this brochure. Other information may be obtained by calling the PSN Program at 407-836-9319 or by calling the Orange County Office of Emergency Management at 407-836-9140.

**To request a Special Needs
registration form, or to obtain
additional information,
please contact...**

**Orange County
Special Needs Program
2002-A East Michigan St.
Orlando, FL 32806**

**407-836-9319
Fax: 407-836-7625**

EMERGENCY



PREPAREDNESS

FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

***Presented as a
service of the
Health Services Department***

