

Older Georgians

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 800,000 Georgians are over age 65. Many senior citizens in Georgia have unique medical needs, and surviving tomorrow's disaster often depends on the planning and preparation made today. A commitment to learning about local resources will help you prepare for any emergency situation.

In addition to assembling your basic Ready kit, consider the following:

- Create a support network of family, friends and others who can assist you during an emergency and share your disaster plans with them.
- Make sure someone in your disaster network has a key to your home or apartment.
- You may not have access to a drugstore or medical facility for at least a week, maybe longer, so plan to make it on your own.
 - Make a list of prescription medicines including dosage and a list of allergies.
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, talk to your service provider about their emergency plans and work with them to identify back-up service providers.
- Consider other personal needs such as extra eyeglasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen.
- Keep copies of important documents in a water proof container in your Ready kit, including:
 - Medical records, medical insurance and Medicare cards
 - Wills and deeds
 - Social security number
 - Bank account information and tax records
 - Names and contact information of your support network, as well as your medical provider
- If you have a communication-related disability, make sure your emergency information notes the best way to communicate with you.
- Make plans for your pets or service animals. Most shelters accept service animals, but not all shelters accept pets so plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your animals.
 - Consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.
 - Have a Ready kit prepared for your pet as well, including food, water, carrier or leash, medicines and veterinarian's contact information.

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