



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND DISABILITY: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!!

In the event of an emergency, it is important to keep in mind the various rights and responsibilities under the law. At the federal level, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Occupation Safety and Health Act (OSHA) play significant roles in requiring accessible emergency planning. In addition, some state and local governments have expanded requirements on accessible emergency planning.

One of the most informative places to research information on emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities is found through the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The link is www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/ppp/research.htm

IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KEEP HANDY AS PART OF YOUR DISASTER PLANNING KIT:

FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE: 800-621-3362 OR TTY: 800-462-7585

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA): 866-519-6362 or 800-222-6362

MS Office of Homeland Security: 800-441-6362

MS State Dept of Health: 866-458-4948 or 601-576-7400

MS Dept of Transportation: 601-359-7017

The Salvation Army: 800-725-2769

The Red Cross (Central MS): 866-438-4636 or 601-353-5442

MS Interfaith Disaster Task Force: 228-432-9312

United Way of MS: 211 from any phone

Note: These are not the ONLY numbers that will provide important information in the time of a disaster, but they are a good start and can usually direct you to the number you need.

PLAN

PREPARE

PROTECT

PARTICIPATE

It is your right to be able to access ALL information related to evacuation, shelters, assistance, and long term recovery planning. It is vital to your recovery that you have this information to ensure that no steps are missed in the process. If you need materials in Braille or large print, if you need a sign language interpreter, if you need someone to assist you in any way, or if you need an alternative method of accommodation, these can be made available to you. Don't hesitate to ask. Being informed and involved is the best path for your long term recovery!