

FACT SHEET

Persons are considered to have special needs if they have a physical, mental, sensory, behavioral, emotional, developmental, cognitive, or emotional impairment or limiting condition. Some special needs populations include, but may not be limited to, the elderly, medically fragile, mentally and/or physically challenged, mentally ill, and the developmentally delayed. Assistance or medical needs requirements will vary. These groups may require specially trained health care providers to care for them or help them meet daily needs, special facilities equipped to meet their needs, and specialized vehicles and equipment for transport. This population may require special assistance during emergency situations.

Citizens with medical disabilities or transportation needs can now pre-register with the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management for help in case of an emergency evacuation.

Citizens who register will be asked to keep their information current and update it annually. Registration documents will remain confidential, and will be maintained by the Houston Office of Emergency Management. Persons outside the City of Houston will have their registration forms delivered to the Emergency Management Office of the jurisdiction where they reside.

The registration form is available through the Office of Emergency Management's website <http://www.houstontx.gov/oem/>, Home Service Providers (i.e. Meals on Wheels, AAA, etc.) and the Houston Health Department. Registration forms should be mailed to OEM at the address listed on the form, or it can be completed online.

Questions should be directed to the **Houston Office of Emergency Management at (713) 884-4500.**

Information for assisting special needs populations during an emergency:

Tips for the Elderly (Seniors)

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233852>

Tips for People With Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233789>

Tips for People With Disabilities and Medical Concerns

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233887>

Tips for People Who Are Hearing Impaired

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233901>

Tips for People With Visual Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233880>

Tips for Service Animals and Pet Owners

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233838>

Tips for People With Cognitive Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233894>

Tips for People With Mobility Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233796>

Tips for People With Communication and Speech Related Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233782>

Tips for People With Environmental Illness or Chemical Sensitivities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233908>

Tips for People With Psychiatric Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233922>

Tips for People With Special Medical Needs

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=333&q=233803>

Tips for People Who Use Life Support Systems

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233775>

Tips for Special Needs of Medically Fragile People

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233845>

Tips for Creating an Emergency Health Information Card

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233950>

Tips for Collecting Emergency Documents for People with Disabilities

<http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/view.asp?a=171&q=233915>

**Emergency Information for Children with Special Needs Worksheet
(PDF)** http://www.health.state.pa.us/pdf/emergencyinfo_specialneeds.pdf