

Emergency Preparedness 2010

Expected to be busy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration release its outlook. Are you ready

Make a plan; decide what you will be able to do for yourself and family, and what assistance you may need before, during and after a disaster. For example, organize a network of assistance that includes: care attendants, neighbors, friends, relatives, co-workers, school, workplace, volunteer site and any other places where you spend a lot of time. It may be important to depend on more than one person at each location where you regularly spend time.

Everyone should have an emergency disaster kit. A disaster kit is a collection of basic items you would probably need to stay safe and comfortable during and after any disaster. They should be stored in a portable container as close to an exit door as possible. Special needs items should be considered as well , such as extra batteries for hearing aids and wheelchairs; essential medicines, a list of current prescriptions and your medical history. Remember service animals may become confused, panicked, frightened or disoriented. A leash in your kit is an important item for managing a nervous animal.

Vulnerable Population Registry; a program that allows people who would be at risk (disability, frailty or health issues) following a hurricane to register in advance if you elect to stay at home so that emergency workers may plan a better recovery effort. The registry is a joint partnership between all municipalities in Broward County, based on their city's recovery effort. The easy way to register is online www.broward.org/atrisk or you can call 954-831-4000 (TTY 954-8313940)

Important generator safety tips; be sure never to operate you generator indoors; it run on gas and can cause unintentional carbon monoxide, if inhaled, it can be fatal. Don't refill the generator's gas tank while the unit is running because this can result in a fire which can also result in serious injury or death. Finally, be sure to remove all gas from the tank when storing your generator for the next emergency. Special needs registry 954-537-2888 TTY 954-537-2882. If you would like additional information on how to prepare you self and your family, please contact me at 954-722-6400 ext 117 or email me at fcruz@cilbroward.org

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