

Helpful Contact Information

American Red Cross
800-733-2767
www.redcross.org

Governor's Office of Homeland
Security and Emergency
Preparedness
225-925-7500
www.gohsep.la.gov

Louisiana Assistive Technology
Access Network (LATAN)
225-925-9500
www.latan.org



Mission

Louisiana EMDAC is a coalition of nonprofit, for profit and government agencies in Louisiana that advocates for and supports emergency management efforts that serve all people in the state, particularly people with disabilities and those who are aging.

Values

Louisiana EMDAC believes that the needs and safety of all people, particularly those with disabilities and those who are aging, must be carefully considered and adequately addressed before, during and after disaster and emergency situations within the state.



Assistive Device Considerations During Emergency Situations

For Individuals who use Assistive Devices

Assistive Device Considerations During Emergency Situations

When an emergency happens, you will need to make decisions about your own safety. You will need your assistive devices in an emergency situation. The information presented here will help you plan to have your devices ready for use in the event of an emergency.

- Keep electronic devices charged
 - Store chargers, extra batteries, and adapters with devices
 - Label all assistive devices and components with your name and contact information
 - If using electronic assistive devices, remember to pre-arrange for access to a power source or charging station at your prospective evacuation destination
 - Post “how-to” instructions on complex devices (such as a power wheelchair) for first responders and evacuation personnel
 - Don’t forget low-tech devices (daily living aids) such as adapted eating utensils, dressing aids, magnifying eyeglasses, etc.
- Prepare a list containing as much of the following information as possible regarding your assistive device(s). Store a paper copy of the information in a plastic zipper bag and/or save it on a USB (flash / jump / thumb) drive or CD (or both). Keep this updated information in an accessible place like your “ready kit” or “go bag” packed for emergency situations. Include on your list:
 - Name of each device, its purpose and how you use it
 - Photograph (or video) of device and you using it
 - Manufacturer’s name (company that makes the device) and contact information
 - Model and serial numbers
 - Vendor’s name(s) (store and salesperson) and contact information
 - Date of purchase and copy of sales receipt
 - Copy of doctor’s and/or therapist’s prescription(s) regarding the device and their contact information
 - Funder’s (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, and Insurance) name, contact information, and policy number. Keep a photocopy of both sides of your insurance card, if possible
- If using a communication device, pre-program your needs and information into your device for use during a disaster, evacuation, or while staying in a disaster shelter.
 - If relying on others (like family members, friends, neighbors, caregivers, local or state officials) for evacuation assistance, contact them periodically and discuss your assistive device needs during an emergency situation.
 - In case of device failure, damage, or loss during an evacuation, pre-arrange for temporary and/or permanent replacement device or parts with local vendor(s) at your prospective evacuation destination. Consult your original vendor and insurance representative for recommendations.
 - Be a self-advocate by making your needs known and taking the opportunity to educate transportation officials, emergency managers, first responders, and shelter staff about your need for, and the proper usage and treatment of your assistive devices.