

SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

Please note: The special needs shelter should be used as a place of last refuge. The evacuee may not receive the same level of care received in the home and the conditions in a shelter may be stressful.

- (1) It is the expectation of the special needs shelter that a caregiver¹ accompany and remain with the consumer throughout the stay.

- (2) The following is a suggested list of what consumers need to bring to the special needs shelter during an evacuation; the consumer should check with the assigned shelter to confirm the necessary items and/or those items which may not be accommodated:
 - Identification and current address
 - A copy of the consumer's plan of care, if applicable
 - Medication listing including directions for the dose, frequency, route, time of day and any special considerations for administration; equipment and supplies list including the phone, beeper and emergency numbers for the consumer's physician, pharmacy and, if applicable, oxygen supplier; necessary medical equipment and supplies; Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO), if applicable
 - Bed sheets, blankets, pillow, folding lawn chair, air mattress
 - Prescription and non-prescription medications needed for at least 5 to 7 days; oxygen for 5 to 7 days, if needed and shelter space allows
 - Special diet items, non-perishable food for 5 to 7 days and 1 gallon of water per person per day
 - Glasses, hearing aids and batteries, prosthetics and any other assistive devices
 - Personal hygiene items for 5 to 7 days (including adult diapers, colostomy supplies, etc.)
 - Extra clothing for 5 to 7 days
 - Flashlight and batteries
 - Self-entertainment and recreation items such as books, magazines, quiet games
 - Labeled shoe box or other small closed container to hold the majority of the smaller items listed above to facilitate storage and ease of use

- (3) All persons using the special needs shelters need to know the following:
 - Space allotted for the consumer includes space for the caregiver. A special needs shelter can accommodate only one caregiver at a time; any other family members, friends, etc. should go to a regular shelter.
 - The caregiver must provide his or her own bedding.
 - Caregivers who regularly assist the consumer in the home are expected to continue to provide the same care in the shelter.
 - Service dogs are allowed in the shelter. Check with the local Emergency Management office to see if other pets are permitted.
 - Bring food items as listed above. It is possible only sparse meals will be provided.
 - Smoking is not allowed in the shelter.

¹ Caregivers may be relatives, household members, guardians, friends, neighbors, employees or volunteers.