

“How to”

Prepare People with Special Needs for Hurricane Season

Operation Preparation



As hurricane season approaches, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for Louisiana suggests “Get a Game Plan” before June 1.

For those with medical disabilities, consider additional precautions.



Be ready to evacuate, if possible. If you can't evacuate, know the requirements for Medical Special Needs Shelters and where they are located.

Medical Special Needs Shelters are specifically for individuals who need medical attention and cannot evacuate. For those who have health problems requiring medical expertise, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals recommends evacuating to areas that are out of harm's way. Medical Special Needs Shelters are intended for those who need assistance that cannot be guaranteed in a regular shelter and who have no other resources. These shelters provide medical support services only, such as generators to power equipment like oxygen converters.

Maintain a list of the following important items and store it with your emergency supplies. Give a copy to a family member and a friend or neighbor:

- Special equipment and supplies used, like hearing aid batteries
- Prescription names and dosages
- Names, addresses and telephone numbers of physicians and pharmacists
- Detailed information about the specifications of your medication regime.

Wear medical alert tags or bracelets at all times to identify your disability.

Remember, if a hurricane approaches the area, the North Oaks Public Information Hotline at (985) 230-INFO [4636] will be activated to share updates, including the location of Medical Special Needs Shelters operated by the state's Office of Public Health. Updates also will be posted to www.northoaks.org and shared with radio partners: KSLU 90.9 FM, Northshore Broadcasting (WFPR 1400 AM, WHMD 107.1 FM, Tangi 96.5 FM) and WWL AM 870/FM 105.3.