

PLAN TO HELP PERSONS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

Imagine being home alone, disabled, with a major storm coming. Fright can turn to comfort if a church home visitor has helped you prepare for emergencies and emergency responders. Reassurance that someone knows you are alone and will keep in touch with you makes a huge difference.

Recruit a home visitor for each person who is homebound, to help the person make advance preparations to deal with an emergency such as flooding, fire, tornado, hurricane, shelter in place, power outage, etc.

Here are some emergency preparation ideas for the home visitor to use, working with their assigned person:

1. Compile information for a church "Home" database. Collect both cell and land line phone numbers for the member and their relatives or caregivers, as one system may be down in an emergency. Check for hearing impairment and find out what equipment is used to communicate, e.g. TTY (telecommunication device for the Deaf), cell phone texting, videophone, or captioned phone. Know the access number for your area, e.g. 711.
2. Make a list of local and church emergency numbers and place them in a highly visible central location in the home.
3. Provide a flashlight with a flasher near the most-used chair or bed. When you visit regularly, check on batteries.
4. Check for or provide a laminated personal identification tag to help an emergency responder assess the rescue. (See sample below.) A medical alert tag worn around the neck or wrist does not serve the same purpose.
5. Place identification stickers on medical equipment. Rescuers take a person first without equipment, but may reunite the rescued person with equipment if each piece is marked with information including name and a phone number.
6. If the person uses oxygen, be sure a colored "Oxygen in Use" card is in a front window. Replace faded ones.
7. With the help of a caregiver, pack a "Ready Kit" with essentials including medical and insurance information. Keep it in a consistent place in case of hurried evacuation.
8. Use a Vial of Life information sheet or vial (available at <http://www.vialoflife.com>) to record medical information. Post in or on the refrigerator.
9. On regular visits, review and renew the preparations you have helped make.
10. Share emergency plans with neighbors, friends, and family, so they will know how to contact you.

11. Instruct the caregiver on what to do in a power outage, such as unplugging appliances to prevent power surge when it returns, filling up bottles of water, and preparing for a minimum of 3 days without power and water.

12. After an emergency event, stay in contact with your person to determine immediate and ongoing needs. Pray with the person on each visit.

SAMPLE EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION

My name is _____

My primary language is _____

I need help because

_____ I am hard of hearing

_____ I am blind and have a guide dog.

_____ I cannot speak

_____ I cannot move on my own

_____ Other: _____

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