Make a Plan
Identifying the types of disasters that may occur around an area can help individuals better prepare for the before, during and after. Plan ahead!

- Create a personal support network. This is a team that can help prepare individuals with specific assistance needs for a disaster. Keep a list with the contacts of the personal support network nearby, as well as in all emergency kits.
- Have more than one location in mind when trying to evacuate to a shelter. Make sure the shelter has enough room for service animals, medical equipment or assistive technology devices and supplies, if necessary.
- If there is a communication disability present, make sure there is a written list of emergency information and medications to show first responders.
- Many local offices keep lists of people with disabilities or life-sustaining treatments to allow rapid response and assistance. Consider contacting the city or county government’s emergency management agency or office to inform them about specific needs within the household. Additionally, consider reaching out to the local fire department as well as utility companies, especially if life-sustaining treatment is involved.

Make a Disaster Kit
Having a disaster kit already prepared with items to meet individual needs can make handling various emergencies easier and less stressful.

- Always have extra batteries for emergency equipment as well as hearing-aids, communications devices, wheelchairs, etc.
- Keep laminated cards with phrases or pictures for communication. Also have Braille/text communication cards, if used for communication.
- Keep a list of contact information, copies of medical insurance, doctor information, medication list and a list of style and serial number of medical devices that were used.
- Keep at least a week-long supply of prescription medicines, along with a list of the dosages and any allergies. Talk to a doctor about possible alternative medication in place of refrigerated medication to have on hand in the event of an emergency.

For more information on how to plan for a disaster and make a kit:
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