No individual who sees or experiences a disaster is untouched by it, and persons with access and functional needs face additional challenges. Planning ahead can make all the difference.

Before a Flood
- Create a disaster plan. More information is available at dhs.in.gov/2779.htm.
- Consider establishing a personal support network with neighbors, friends and family. This group can assist in disaster preparations and help individuals get to a safe location.
- Consider installing an alarm with a strobe light outside of the home or in a window to be able to alert neighbors or first responders that an individual inside still requires assistance.
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelet.
- Assemble an emergency disaster kit. More information is available at dhs.in.gov/2783.htm.

When a Flood Begins
- Consider purchasing all hazards radio or battery operated radio. Turning on a TV/radio will help individuals stay up to date on the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- If possible get to higher ground or stay on high ground.
- If at all possible, avoid traveling or driving through flood waters. TURN AROUND, DON’T DROWN!

Once the Flood Stops:
- It is OK to go back home only once authorities give permission.
- Do not attempt to drive through flooded areas.
- Take photographs of any damage to property for insurance purposes.

Know the difference between Flood Watch and a Flood Warning
- Flash Flood Warning: Take Action Now! If in a flood prone area move to higher ground immediately.
- Flood Warning: Take Action! Begin to take action by preparing to move to higher ground.
- Flood Watch: Be Prepared. Be able to move to higher ground should flooding occur.
- Flood Advisory: Be Aware. Be aware of the surrounding areas and identify an evacuation plan.

For more information on how to plan for flooding preparedness:
Visit GetPrepared.IN.gov
Situation-Specific Safety Consideration

**Persons Who Have a Physical Disability or Movement Limitations**
- Early evacuation is best. Work with a support network to make planning for early evacuation easier.
- If living in an apartment complex, ask management to mark all accessible exits.
- If living or working in a high-rise building, have an escape chair in the event the elevators are unable to run.

**Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**
- Store extra batteries for hearing aids and implants. If possible, keep an extra hearing aid inside of an emergency kit.
- Determine how to communicate with emergency personnel if an interpreter is needed, but not available. Keep pens and paper nearby.

**Persons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired**
- Those with partial vision, should consider placing security lights in each to room to light paths. When there is loss of power these lights automatically activate.
- Store an extra cane with emergency kit.
- Label emergency supplies using large print, fluorescent tape, braille or other preferred methods.

**Persons Who Have a Development/Cognitive or Intellectual Disability**
- Carry emergency information at all times. A medical alert bracelet or tag with specific information can be very helpful.
- Keep a written or visual checklist of what to do and important information in safety kit.
- Practice emergency plans (evacuation or evacuation to higher ground) in advance.

**Persons Who Have a Service Animal**
- Keep license and ID tags on service animal at all times.
- Keep copies of the animal’s health records, animal certification and veterinarian contact information.
- Maintain instructions on how to care for the service animal, as well as a photo in the event separation occurs.

**Consideration for Refrigerated Medication**
- 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.
- If medications require refrigeration and it is not available due to power outage or other issues consider using the freezer or a small insulated cooler with cold packs.
- When being evacuated, notify first responders about refrigerated medications as soon as possible.