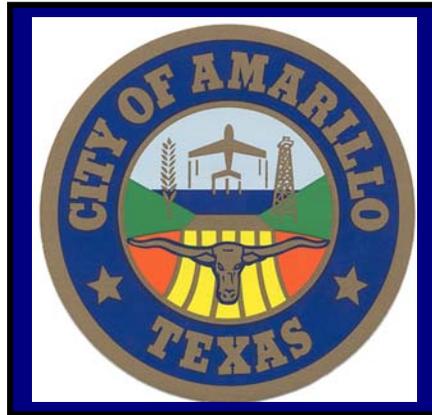


# Disaster Guide for Citizens with Medical Special Needs



Edition 1 - 2008

# Disaster Preparedness

**Disasters can happen to anyone, anywhere, at anytime.**

**Preparing for a disaster is part of taking responsibility for yourself and maintaining your independence. Although many disasters come with little to no warning, if you prepare now, you will be able to take protective actions prior to and during the disaster, of which may make the response process much easier.**

**You should be prepared to meet your specific disability needs by storing sufficient medical equipment, oxygen, medications, etc., for at least 5 days.**

**The information in this booklet will help you prepare for a disaster. It will also help you to understand why preparedness knowledge can save lives.**



# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
City of Amarillo Registry for Special Needs .....	3
Vial Of Life.....	4
Emergency Supply Kits .....	5-9
Evacuating Animals.....	10

# City of Amarillo

## Special Needs Registry

City of Amarillo/Potter/Randall Emergency Management officials may recommend an evacuation or sheltering in place of specific areas of the city or counties for reasons that include but are not limited to: natural disasters such as a fire, flood, man-made incident, rail or highway accidents or a technological disaster such as a hazardous materials release or a radiation incident.

The Special Needs registry is a **voluntary** registry program that provides evacuation assistance to residents during such times. Evacuation assistance may be provided to the evacuation location for those that are registered. First responders may use the registry information during search and rescue operations.

### Who is eligible?

City of Amarillo, Potter County and Randall County residents who meet the following:

- Require transportation to and from designated evacuation facility
- Require assistance with evacuation due to a medical related condition.

\*\*\* Residents requiring greater levels of assistance are advised to consult with their healthcare professional, before the need to evacuate. Due to the evacuation facility resources and the individual's medical care level, some individuals may need to consider a medical care setting rather than an evacuation facility. \*\*\*

### How to Register

Residents of Amarillo, Potter County and Randall County may register by completing the Special Needs Registry Form. Registration forms are available at designated location(s) throughout the city and counties. You may also register by calling 806-378-3000 and request the special needs registry personnel to assist you.

If your condition changes, it is important for you or your emergency contact to notify the City of Amarillo, so that your information can be updated. Annual verification of your information is required.

\*\*\* Individuals residing in nursing homes, assisted living centers, hospitals, and state schools participate through their facility's emergency management program and therefore these individuals do not require registration. \*\*\*

# Vial of Life Bag

The Vial of Life is a program to assist registrants with maintaining their important medical information. Anyone can participate in this program, not just those in the special needs registry. The information may be used by first responders should you need assistance. You may also elect to use when you visit your healthcare provider(s) for routine visits. This will assist you and your healthcare provider with in keeping your medical information current.

Follow these steps to prepare you for a personal emergency as well as a disaster:

1. Fill out your Vial of Life form. These can be obtained at designated location(s) throughout the city, as well as, by calling the City of Amarillo at 806-378-3000.
  - The completed form should be placed in the bag.
  - Also place a recent copy of your electrocardiogram (EKG), living will, in hospital do not resuscitate, out of hospital do not resuscitate, insurance cards, and driver's license or other form of picture identification.
  - Also include **5 days worth** of all your medications. **Please keep each medication in the appropriate container labeled with your name, drug name, strength, instructions to take it, and expiration date. Be sure to update as your medications change.**
2. Place Vial of Life magnet on refrigerator door. Placing it at eye level too will assist responders in locating the Vial of Life. **Fill in all information on magnet before placing on your refrigerator.**
3. Please check with your doctor and/or pharmacist on the proper storage of you medications. Be sure to change medications every 6 months, to prevent the medications from expiring.



Preparedness is knowledge that saves lives!

# Emergency Supply Kit

## Emergency Supply Kit

It is recommended that you have the following supplies to meet each person's needs in your home needs for 3 days:

- Water
- Food
- First aid kit
- Clothing & Bedding
- Tools
- Flashlight
- Battery operated radio
- Medical Special Needs kit



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# Emergency Supply Kit

## Water

Store 1 gallon per person per day.



1 Person



day 1

+



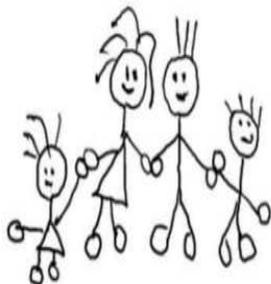
day 2

+



day 3

**This is how much water one person needs for 3 days.**



4 People



**This is how much water a family of 4 needs for 3 days.**

**Remember you need to keep at least 3 days of water on hand for each person living in your house. It is also important to change out the water every 6 months if it has not been used. Make sure to clean water bottles before re-using them.**

# Emergency Supply Kit

## Food

Store at least **3 days of non-perishable food items**. Don't forget to have foods for babies and small children as well as those on special diets. The following are examples of items:

### Canned Vegetables and Fruit



### Canned Nuts



### Peanut Butter



### Canned Meats



### Manual Can Opener



Remember you will need enough food for at least **3 meals a day per person in your home**.

**Don't forget those specialty items.** Also if you have an animal please have food for them that is set aside should you need it in an emergency.

Make certain you are able to open containers. Some may require a manual can opener.

# Emergency Supply Kit

## First Aid Kit



- 1 package of bandages
- 1 roll of gauze
- 1 box of alcohol wipes
- 1 tube of antibiotic ointment
- 1 travel package of wet wipes
- 1 pair of scissors

## Clothes and Bedding



**Change of Clothes**



**Bedding**

## Tools and other supplies

### **Basic Tool Kit**



### **Radio**



### **Flashlight**



# Emergency Supply Kit

## Evacuation Preparation

Caregivers and family may accompany registrant(s) during evacuation. At the evacuation facility it is recommended that at least one caregiver or family member stay to assist the special needs registrant.

**Service animals will remain with their owners at all times during an evacuation.**

### Medical Special Needs Kit

Listed below are items and supplies that should be brought with you when evacuating your residence.

- Vial of life bag
- All medication(s) for at least **5 days** if not in vial of life
- Oxygen and Oxygen Supplies
- Snacks that will last at least 12 hours
- 2 changes of clothing
- Personal hygiene products
- Any assistive device used daily.
  - Walker, Cane, Nebulizer, Blood Sugar monitor



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# Evacuation of Animals

Household pets will be accommodated during an evacuation. **All service animals will remain with their owners for the duration of their evacuation.**

Pets need to be in a pet carrier to speed the evacuation process.

If your pet has special needs such as medication, a special diet or any other special need, you should prepare an evacuation kit for the pet. Be sure to include a copy of special instructions in the kit and tape a copy securely to the pet carrier.

Be sure to label the pet carrier and kit with your pet's name, your name, and an emergency contact number.



Preparedness is knowledge that saves lives!

