

## Emergency Preparedness

### **NATIONAL**

Ready.gov

[www.ready.gov/disability](http://www.ready.gov/disability)

[www.ready.gov/older-adults](http://www.ready.gov/older-adults)

CDC

[www.cdc.gov/disability-emergency-preparedness/people-with-disabilities/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/disability-emergency-preparedness/people-with-disabilities/index.html)

[www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/older-adult-emergency.html](http://www.cdc.gov/aging/publications/features/older-adult-emergency.html)

Red Cross

[www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/inclusive-preparedness-resources.html](http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/inclusive-preparedness-resources.html)

Department of Labor

[www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/program-areas/employment-supports/emergency-preparedness](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/program-areas/employment-supports/emergency-preparedness)

Disaster Assistance

<https://disasterassistance.gov>

<https://disasterassistance.gov/information/people-with-disabilities>

### **TEXAS**

Logan Perkes

FEMA Disability Integration Advisor, Texas

[logan.perkes@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:logan.perkes@fema.dhs.gov)

Apply for FEMA assistance at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-3362

Emergency Management – Office of the Governor

[https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/emergency\\_management](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/emergency_management)

Compiled by DIRC staff, Texas Talking Book Program, 800-252-9605 (toll free in Texas), 512-463-5458, [tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov](mailto:tbp.services@tsl.texas.gov), [www.TexasTalkingBooks.org](http://www.TexasTalkingBooks.org)

Updated 8/22/24

Texas Department of Emergency Management

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

- STEAR (State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry)
- <https://tdem.texas.gov/response/state-of-texas-emergency-assistance-registry>

The STEAR program is a free registry designed to equip local emergency planners and responders with vital information about community needs. Texas communities utilize this registry data in various ways. It's important to note that registering with STEAR does not guarantee the provision of specific services during an emergency, as available services may differ by community.

Disability Rights Texas Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

<https://disabilityrightstx.org/en/category/disaster-resilience/>

Project REDD – Research and Education on Disability and Disaster (Texas A&M)

<https://redd.tamu.edu>

Sight into Sound

Emergency Preparedness Information

[www.sightintosound.org/emergency-preparedness-information](http://www.sightintosound.org/emergency-preparedness-information)

Sight into Sound is a radio reading service available in the Houston area that also provides custom audio recordings. The services are free for people with print disabilities.

The Emergency Preparedness section on the web site consists of brief audio files on various topics related to emergency preparedness, including making a plan, evacuation assistance, power outages, and mental health support.

Sight into Sound can make this information available on a cd at no charge, or a flash drive if the person needing the information sends them one.

713-622-2767

[info@sightintosound.org](mailto:info@sightintosound.org)

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## Disaster Behavioral Health Services

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-crisis-services/disaster-behavioral-health-services>

## Replacing Durable Medical Equipment / Assistive Technology After a Disaster:

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/replacing-durable-medical-equipment-and-assistive-technology-lost-in-disasters>

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Texas Department of Insurance
- FEMA

## Non-Disability related resources

Texas Ready – <https://texasready.gov>

## Central Texas:

- Central Texas – [www.austintexas.gov/readycentraltexas](http://www.austintexas.gov/readycentraltexas)
- Neighborhood Preparedness Guide:  
[www.austintexas.gov/EmergencyPrepGuide](http://www.austintexas.gov/EmergencyPrepGuide)

## Emergency Preparedness Supplies Sales Tax Holiday (typically in April)

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-1017.php>

800-252-5555

## Resources for Weather Information and Emergency Alerts:

### Weather and Emergency Alerts for Texans with Disabilities

<https://disabilityrightstx.org/en/handout/weather-emergency-alerts-for-texans-with-disabilities/>

## Accessible Hazard Alert System (AHAS)

- Austin/Travis County – <https://atc.ahasalerts.com/register.aspx>
- San Antonio – <https://sat.ahasalerts.com/default.aspx>
- Harris County/Houston – <https://hct.ahasalerts.com/register.aspx>
- Fort Worth – <http://ftw.ahasalerts.com/Register.aspx>

## Newsline for the Blind

Newsline is a free service that provides access to national, state, and regional newspapers and magazines. It is designed for people with print disabilities and can be accessed by phone, smart devices, or electronic braille devices.

Newsline has a “Breaking News” section and provides weather alerts and forecasts

<https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline>

*\*Talking Book Program patrons are eligible for the Newsline service. Call or e-mail if you would like to get registered.*

## **Ideas for older people / people with disabilities who are alone during a winter weather event.**

Regarding food and water:

- If there is a power outage and you cannot use a manual can opener and do not have access to refrigeration, consider food that is easy to open and non-perishable:
- Food in pouches – tuna, salmon, refried beans
- Food in single-serve containers, bags, or boxes – fruit and applesauce cups, peas and corn, peanut butter and almond butter, ready-to-eat-meals, cereal, chips
- Fruits and vegetables that don’t require refrigeration
- Bread, bagels, graham crackers, and crackers, including cheese and peanut butter crackers
- Granola bars, meal replacement bars, breakfast bars / pastries
- Make sure you can open the water, drink containers you have – juice, carbonated water, soda

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Updated 8/22/24

### Staying warm:

- Dress in layers – thermal underwear, shirts and jacket, warm socks, gloves, hat/hoodie
- Use multiple blankets / invest in emergency mylar blankets
- Consider USB hand warmers, throws, heating pads (use sparingly due to lack of power and avoid burns)
- Keep doors to unused rooms closed
- Ask for help ahead of time with positioning / filling generators – DO NOT use inside, and make sure the carbon monoxide detector is operational

### Lights / phones:

- Use lanterns, flashlights, lights that don't require electricity
- Stock up on batteries and make sure you can load batteries and operate lights on your own
- Use candles and tea lights only if flashlights or lanterns are unavailable
- Have more than one portable charger and keep them charged
- Turn off cell phone to save the battery
- Using the light on a cell phone will run down the battery

### Other tips:

- Use light sources to avoid falls, especially on stairs
- Exercise when able to keep warm and maintain circulation
- Have medication readily available
- Have hand sanitizer
- Have a weather radio
- Fill bathtubs prior to event
- When using a fireplace, make sure damper is open
- Know your neighbors
- Next Door app
- Know your Neighbor Campaign – HHS
- Turn To – HHS - [www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/prevention/turn-to](http://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/prevention/turn-to)
- Do not attempt to walk / drive on ice