Planning for Individuals with Functional Needs

While being prepared for disasters and emergencies is important for all individuals, it is even more critical for those with functional needs who may need assistance during an emergency. The following information provides emergency preparedness tips for individuals with functional needs and their caregivers.

- Know what disasters could affect your area, which could require an evacuation and when to shelter-in-place

Make a Plan

How might a disaster affect you? Could you make it on your own for at least three days? Planning should include the following steps:

- Create a support network and maintain a contact list in a waterproof container
- Be ready to explain to first responders your functional need and the necessary assistance you may require
- Inform your support network where you keep your emergency supply kit
- If you utilize medical equipment that requires electricity consider how you can prepare during a power outage
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets

Build a Kit

In addition to having your basic supplies, an emergency kit should include items to meet YOUR individual needs during various emergencies. Consider the items you use on a daily basis and which ones you may need to include:

- Extra batteries for necessary medical equipment
- Communication devices
- Copies of medical insurance
- A list of the style and serial number of medical devices. Include special instructions for operating your equipment if necessary

For more information and specific guide books on preparing visit the Ready Illinois Webpage at: https://www.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Pages/FunctionalNeeds.aspx