

**HOW TO REGISTER WITH THE
SPECIAL NEEDS DATA BASE:
WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?**

Registration is voluntary: For additional information call 452-6400 ext. 216.

1. Complete a registration form to give us information so we may call you. Forms are available at:

- New Hanover County Department of Aging (DOA)/Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) (The Senior Center)
- And on the internet at the New Hanover County web site:
www.nhcgov.com/AG/RSVP.asp

2. Your information will be entered in a computer database (list) at the New Hanover County Department of Aging Senior Center office. The Retired & Senior Volunteer Program volunteers who keep up with this information will protect your information and not share it without your permission. Please notify these volunteers (910-452-6400 ext 216) if there are any important changes in your information. Otherwise, the volunteers will call from time to time to see if your information has changed.

3. If a disaster event threatens, you will be contacted to review your Disaster Plan.

The Special Needs Task Force does not replace your current service provider, but works closely with them to assist you in developing your Personal Disaster Plan.



New Hanover County
Department of Aging
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
(910) 452-6400, Ext. 216



New Hanover County
Department of Emergency Management
(910) 341-4300

**NEW HANOVER COUNTY
SPECIAL NEEDS TASK FORCE**



*Planning
for a Disaster*



SPECIAL NEEDS TASK FORCE

WHAT CAN THE SPECIAL NEEDS TASK FORCE DO?

The Special Needs Task Force is a group of health & adult service agencies in your community who volunteer their time in a disaster to see what assistance may be available for those individuals needing more help due to physical or medical problems.

The Task Force meets on a regular basis to develop plans and try to anticipate and remove problems that may occur. These plans usually fall into one of the following categories:

1. Educate
2. Evacuate
3. Shelter

EDUCATE

Home Health Agencies, Oxygen Providers, and Adult Services Agencies are encouraged to plan one-on-one with their clients to go over what might happen in a disaster, & offer pamphlets on supplies, toiletries, medications, water, and other emergency supplies. Emergency Management offers written materials and public information by television, newspapers, and radio.

EVACUATE (LEAVE THE AREA)

If you need electricity for medical equipment, air conditioning, or comfort, the best option is to evacuate. There are **no guarantees** that electric power can be made available. If disaster damage is severe enough to block or remove important structures (roads, power poles, buildings, transformers, downed trees, roof, etc.) your local power company may not be able to get electricity to you for days or weeks.

If you plan to evacuate, please add information about where you will be going to the Special Needs Registration Form so that we may check on your safety, if necessary, for friends or relatives.

The Disaster is in control and dictates our response---

Fran was wind; Floyd was water; Isabel was anxiety.

SHELTER

Shelter is reserved for the highest risk individuals whose Individual Disaster Plan has failed and left them in danger. Sheltering is **not** admission to a nursing home or facility. It is an agreement with a home or facility that they will offer **shelter only**. To be considered for one of these special shelters you **must** have a responsible adult, caregiver, with you at all times if you are not able to do everyday activities without help (like feeding yourself or going to the bathroom without help). You must take a 3 day supply of any special items that you need with you to the shelter (like bandages, medicine, diapers, etc.).

Sheltering individuals are still under the care of their service agency (Home Health, Oxygen, etc.).

TRANSPORTATION

The command center has limited transportation at their disposal, but may assist in arranging transportation to and from a shelter.

SERVICE ANIMALS AND PETS

Specially trained service animals are allowed to stay with their masters in a shelter. Proof of the animal's training is **required**, so keep a copy of the training papers and shot records in your disaster kit.

Family pets are **not** permitted at evacuation shelters, but arrangements can be made to place your family pets at an animal shelter or kennel. You may need a travel cage and shot records. Or, evacuate to a "pet friendly" hotel or motel outside the area.

LITTLE THINGS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Does your Disaster Plan include these items? Medications, Special Diet Foods, Medical Information, Personal identification, Water, Eye Glasses, Comfortable clothing and shoes, keys, Important papers, phone numbers, flash light, batteries, radio, a book, a deck of cards, toys, hearing aid with extra batteries, pen, pencil, etc.

If a Disaster Threatens, Public Service Announcements (TV, Radio, Newspapers) will provide additional information.