

Emergency Preparedness for People with Hearing Loss

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Emergencies Happen



The Nation's Voice for People with Hearing Loss

Anytime, Anywhere

Oroville Dam, California



How do You Learn About Emergencies?

- Television
- Internet
- Text Alerts
- Friends & Family



Emergency Alerts: TV

- Emergency Managers ***Still*** Rely on TV
- FCC: emergency information must be visual: graphics, crawls or captioning; in the top 25 markets, alerts must be captioned
- FCC Consumer Help Center for complaints, information:

<https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>

21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act of 2010

CVAA

- Requires captioning of video programming shown on television to be captioned when viewed on line
- Screens smaller than 13” must be caption capable

<http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/cvaa.html>

Local Television News Alerts

- Many local news stations do provide local alerts via:
 - Apps for iPhone and Android
 - Facebook
 - Twitter Feeds, etc
 - Registries for breaking alerts via email



WEA: Wireless Emergency Alerts



- Enabled mobile phones receive text alerts of imminent threats to life and safety
- Targeted to a specific geographic area
- Older cell phones may not be WEA capable

Text Alerts

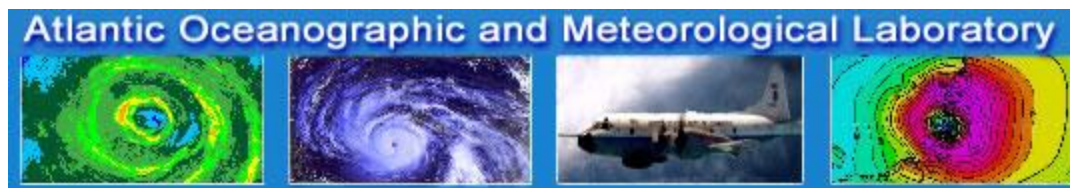


Local Emergency Management Agencies

- You must register
- Provides immediate emergency notifications from the government agency to your cell, work or home phone, via text, email or voice message
- Targeted to the local jurisdiction

Accessible NOAA Weather Radios

- Local weather & emergency alerts
- Does not work as an AM or FM radio
- Turns on when a message is sent
- *Some* models: visual &/or tactile alerts
- Visit www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr



Emergency Kits



- Food
- Water
- First Aid
- Important papers
- Cash



Emergency Kit

Communication Tools

- Smartphone, cell Phone and *car charger*
- Portable TTY, *batteries or charging units*
- Spare hearing aid and/or CI, *batteries*
- Spare glasses
- Personal assistive listening device, *batteries*
- External phone amplifier, *batteries*

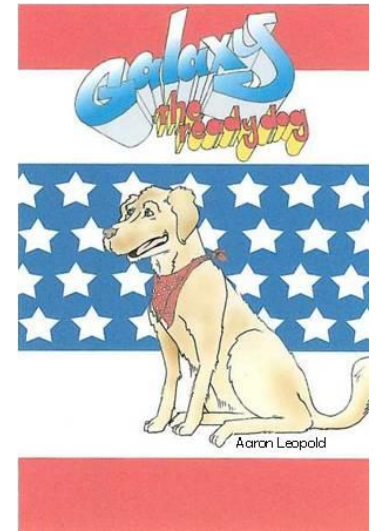
Emergency Kit

- Portable captioned TV, tablet or smart phone
batteries and/or car adaptor
- Portable radio, *batteries*
- Glow stick



Remember Your Pets

- Service dogs go with you, but need an emergency kit of their own
- Animal emergency kit: food, water, pictures, ID, medications, medical records, name of vet
- Find a safe haven for pets in advance: Humane Society, shelters, friends, family, hotels



Shelter in Place vs. Evacuation

Shelter in place when going outside is dangerous

- Tornados
- Chemical spills



Evacuation when you must leave the immediate area

- Hurricanes, floods
- ***Always*** have at least a $\frac{1}{4}$ tank of gas in your car
- Plan ahead if you depend on public transportation

Reaching 911

Text-to-911 via mobile device

- In 2014, FCC adopted rules to implement text-to-911 service.
- May 17, 2013: FCC Order requires a “bounce back” message.
 - Consumers who text where text-to-911 is not available must receive an immediate message.
- FCC’s Text to 911 Registry as of 2/2017, over 800 jurisdictions
 - <https://www.fcc.gov/general/psap-text-911-readiness-and-certification-form>

Using Relay to Call 911



- TTY
 - Still can have a direct line to emergency responders via TTY, though that may sunset
- Captioned Landline Phones, cell phone captioning apps, and IP Relay
 - Relay will always introduce a delay
 - If you can voice for yourself, do it!



Fire Safety



- The risk of death is 51% lower in homes with working – accessible – smoke alarms
- Residential sprinklers decrease the home fire death rate per 100 fires by 74%
- Installing both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system reduces the risk of death in a home fire by 82%, relative to having neither



Fire Safety



- Understand what works for you!
 - Visual
 - Tactile
 - Low frequency alerts
 - Personal receivers
- Don't forget: Carbon Monoxide





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