



Most people never think about what would happen to them if a natural disaster or other type of emergency occurs. Relying on an advanced warning is not always possible. Develop a plan ahead of time for yourself and encourage your employer to think about the support he or she will need.

Do You and Your Employer Have What you Need For An Emergency?

- **Vital Records** - copies of important documentation, service records for your employer's equipment, and other essential paperwork
- **Vial of Life** - a form that includes basic information, medical history, current medical information and emergency contact information - it is helpful to have this form with you at all times

- **Disability Specific Disaster Preparedness Inventory** - this form specifies information on service animals, assistive, technology or other adaptive equipment, personal assistance needs, and directions for routinely needed medical supplies or procedures. It can also be used with the Vial of Life. As a personal assistant you should be familiar with this information in case your employer needs your support

- **Evacuation Kit for Yourself/ Employer/ Service Animal** - recommendations are generally for 72 hours of food and water, a small amount of money, and other essentials

Does Your Employer Have An Evacuation Plan?

- Know who you need to call for transportation
- Know where you will go (e.g. a shelter, someone's home, or somewhere else)
- Know who should be contacted once you have been relocated

What is Your Role as a Personal Assistant?

- Talk to your employer ahead of time about their needs in an emergency, where information can be found and what specific role (if any) you need to play
- Understand how your employer's needs are different in an emergency

Resources

1. *A Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness Planning:*
<http://www.uconnucedd.org/disasterpreparedness.html>
2. *Vile of Life Project:*
http://www.vialoflife.com/print_a_vial_form.html
3. *Disability Specific Disaster Preparedness Inventory:*
<http://www.uconnucedd.org/pdfs/Disability%20Specific%20Disaster%20Preparedness%20Inventory.pdf>
4. *Products for your Emergency Preparedness Kit:*
<https://www.redcrossstore.org/shopper/ProdList.aspx?LocationId=1>
5. *A Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness Planning:*
<http://www.uconnucedd.org/disasterpreparedness.html>

