

## SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

*Please note: The special needs shelter should be used as a place of last refuge. The evacuee may not receive the same level of care received in the home and the conditions in a shelter may be stressful.*

- (1) It is the expectation of the special needs shelter that a caregiver<sup>1</sup> accompany and remain with the consumer throughout the stay.
  
- (2) The following is a suggested list of what consumers need to bring to the special needs shelter during an evacuation; the consumer should check with the assigned shelter to confirm the necessary items and/or those items which may not be accommodated:
  - Identification and current address
  - A copy of the consumer's plan of care, if applicable
  - Medication listing including directions for the dose, frequency, route, time of day and any special considerations for administration; equipment and supplies list including the phone, beeper and emergency numbers for the consumer's physician, pharmacy and, if applicable, oxygen supplier; necessary medical equipment and supplies; Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO), if applicable
  - Bed sheets, blankets, pillow, folding lawn chair, air mattress
  - Prescription and non-prescription medications needed for at least 5 to 7 days; oxygen for 5 to 7 days, if needed and shelter space allows
  - Special diet items, non-perishable food for 5 to 7 days and 1 gallon of water per person per day
  - Glasses, hearing aids and batteries, prosthetics and any other assistive devices
  - Personal hygiene items for 5 to 7 days (including adult diapers, colostomy supplies, etc.)
  - Extra clothing for 5 to 7 days
  - Flashlight and batteries
  - Self-entertainment and recreation items such as books, magazines, quiet games
  - Labeled shoe box or other small closed container to hold the majority of the smaller items listed above to facilitate storage and ease of use
  
- (3) All persons using the special needs shelters need to know the following:
  - Space allotted for the consumer includes space for the caregiver. A special needs shelter can accommodate only one caregiver at a time; any other family members, friends, etc. should go to a regular shelter.
  - The caregiver must provide his or her own bedding.
  - Caregivers who regularly assist the consumer in the home are expected to continue to provide the same care in the shelter.
  - Service dogs are allowed in the shelter. Check with the local Emergency Management office to see if other pets are permitted.
  - Bring food items as listed above. It is possible only sparse meals will be provided.
  - Smoking is not allowed in the shelter.

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<sup>1</sup> Caregivers may be relatives, household members, guardians, friends, neighbors, employees or volunteers.

**Florida Special Needs Registry:** ph# 800-374-9689 TTY: 800-395-1878 register on line  
<https://snr.floridadisaster.org/Signin?ReturnUrl=%2f>

**Brevard:** ph# 321-637-6670 register on line or mail or fax the form found on line  
<http://web.brevardcounty.us/SpecialNeeds/Registration.aspx>

**Indian River:** ph# 772-567-2154 mail or fax the form found on line  
[http://www.irces.com/EM/Special\\_Needs.htm](http://www.irces.com/EM/Special_Needs.htm)

**Orange:** ph# 407-836-9140 use the FL Special Needs Registry

**Osceola:** ph# 407-742-9001 mail or fax the form found on line  
<http://www.osceola.org/agencies-departments/emergency-management/shelters/special-needs-program.stml>