

INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Information for Seniors - The state of Florida has an excellent, comprehensive [guide](#) to disaster preparedness for seniors.

Information for Households with Pets – Households with pets or service animals are responsible for the animals' well being and for disaster planning for their pets. If evacuation and sheltering are necessary, do not leave your pet behind and do not use your pet as an excuse not to evacuate. Please note these shelters usually only accept dogs and cats. Sarasota County provides information on [disaster preparedness for animals](#), including what to bring to a shelter with your pet. Sarasota County also provides a [list of shelters](#) indicating which ones are pet friendly. All of Sarasota County's general population evacuation centers are pet-friendly, but you must be prepared before you go. Bring a crate for your pet if you plan to stay in a Sarasota County evacuation center. If your pet is not accustomed to being confined, acclimate it to the crate before an emergency to help alleviate stress. Shelters require a copy of the vaccination items mentioned above. Owners are responsible for the care of their pet.

Information for Households with Special Needs – Households with persons with special needs should register with the [Sarasota County Department of Emergency Management](#) to receive assistance. Persons with special needs include individuals on oxygen and those with limited mobility. Sarasota County provides a shelter program for those residents requiring special medically related care. Special needs shelters will be available for persons requiring more skilled medical care than available in a public shelter but not requiring an acute care facility such as a hospital. If this type of extended care is needed, contact the Sarasota County Emergency Management office at 941-861- 5000 or go [online](#) to be considered for registration into this program.

If you are reliant on electricity for breathing or other medical equipment, [register with Florida Power and Light](#) as a person with special needs.

If you use a caregiver or care support service, find out what their support services entail.

Develop, along with your health care provider, a plan for "Stay in Place" and an "Evacuation Plan".

Obtain the required documentation for evacuation. These include your physician's signature for services and medications.

Have an adequate supply of needed medications and equipment on hand.

Have a back-up plan for items such as respirators or oxygen.

For further information, please review the Sarasota County [Medical Needs website](#).

Disaster preparedness information for the deaf community can be found at this [website](#).