

What Should I Bring With Me?

You should bring enough supplies to last **4 to 5 days**. Included in your supplies should be items listed below:

- ◇ All medications in their original bottle - with the phone number of the pharmacy
- ◇ Medical support equipment such as wheelchair, walker, cane, oxygen, concentrator, dressings (with instructions), feeding equipment, ostomy supplies, diapers, etc.
- ◇ Special food/dietary supplies if you are on a special diet.
- ◇ Bring snacks - it may take several hours to prepare meals. It is also best to eat before you leave your home.
- ◇ Important papers such as doctor's orders, dressing orders, insurance papers, photo ID and current address.
- ◇ Sleeping gear such as pillows, blankets, folding chairs, portable cot or air mattress. Bring a sweater - shelters tend to be chilly.
- ◇ Extra clothing - including underwear and socks.
- ◇ Comfort items - Personal hygiene items, snacks, small games, cards, books, etc.
- ◇ Cash - since check cashing and credit card services may not be available for several days after a disaster, you might want to have some cash with you - but not too much since there is no place to secure your money at the shelter.



Who Should I Bring With Me?

The person who normally helps you with your daily care is the one who should accompany you and stay with you while you are in the shelter. It is important that your caregiver come with you to take care of you, just like they do at home. Your caregiver should also plan on bringing the supplies they need to stay for 4-5 days including any medications they may require.



What About My Pet?

St. Johns County Special Needs Shelters cannot accept pets, even in an emergency. Only certified service animals will be allowed to enter a Special Needs Shelter.

If your veterinarian or a trusted friend or neighbor can not keep your pet while you are at a shelter, cats and dogs are welcome at St. Johns County's pet-friendly shelters, but certain requirements must be met: pets must be in approved crates, have proper ID Collar and Rabies tag, a leash, bowls for food and water, enough food for 4-5 days, and any medications they require. Go to www.sjcemergencymanagement.org/petshelters.html for more information.



*I'm Registered for this Hurricane Season...
Now What???*

What Should I Expect?

What Should I Bring?

Who Should I Bring?

How Do I Get There?

What About My Pets?

The logo for Public Health, featuring a white cross inside a blue shield with a gold border.

For more information contact us at:
825-5055 x1122

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Or register for evacuation assistance online at:
www.sjcemergencymanagement.org

What Do I Do Now?

Thank you for taking the first step in your disaster preparedness plan, by registering for special medical needs. By registering you have alerted the county that you have medical needs that may require the use of electricity or assistance in caring for yourself during a disaster.

What is a Special Needs Shelter?

In a disaster, being with your loved ones out of harm's way should be your first choice. If this is not possible, a Shelter is an option, although it should be your last choice.

A Special Needs Shelter provides supervision and care to assist you to maintain your present level of health. Since shelters only open during emergency situations they are not set up to provide the level of care found at home or in a hospital.



How Will I Get There?

If you require transportation to the Special Needs

Shelter, you can coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to be contacted to arrange a pick-up time. It's important that you are ready when they arrive for you since they may need to transport a large number of people.

When it comes time to leave the shelter, if you arrived by special transportation you will return home in a similar manner.

What Should I Expect?

A Special Needs Shelter may be located in a school or other public facility. The shelter does not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor does it provide the level of care found in a medical facility. If the need arises, you will be contacted to let you know that the county intends to open shelters. It is important for you to check in at the shelter, since the staff working in the shelter will need to know who will be with them during the emergency.



The sheltering area could be a large room or a school hallway, and it may be crowded and noisy or boring at times.

There is limited space for you and your caregiver. Cots, like the one pictured here, are available only for registered clients.



We encourage caregivers to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and blanket for themselves.

You will only receive basic medical assistance and observation in the shelter. In planning for your shelter stay, ask yourself: "What are the details I give others so that they can help me take care of myself in my home?" and bring that information with you.

What if I'm On a Special Diet?

Food and water will be provided but if you are on a special diet you will need to bring your food with you. Remember that the food you bring must be non-perishable.

You are encouraged to eat something before you come to the shelter since there may be a delay in preparing the first meal.

Electricity

Emergency generators are installed at all Special Needs Shelters. Electricity will be available for the essential medical equipment you bring, and for limited lighting.



Remember

It is essential to re-register each year to update your medical needs. If your medical needs change, please notify us as soon as possible.

