

# Preparedness Checklist for Service Animals

Preparedness may seem like a lot of work. It can be; preparing takes time and effort. Do a little at a time but the important thing is to **START** preparing or continue preparing **TODAY!**

## Date Completed/Activity

- \_\_\_\_\_ Create alternative methods of evacuation from home and work for you and your service animal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make sure your pet ID tags and licenses are current
- \_\_\_\_\_ Including both your home number and your out-of- area contact number
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be prepared to function without assistance from a service animal-Identify alternative mobility cues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build a service animal and/or pet supply kit
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Any medication your pet may require
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Extra leash and collar, harness and/or carrier
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Booties for paws
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Food and water for three days with bowl
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Plastic bags for pick up
  - \_\_\_\_\_ A toy
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of your animal's health records, id numbers and veterinarian's contact information
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Blanket or bed
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Animal First Aid kit with items such as antibiotic creams, and antiseptic ointments
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Written instructions on the care of your animal and or photos and descriptions of your animal in case you are separated
- \_\_\_\_\_ Make a list of pet-friendly places and hotels, check with friends or relatives outside your area. You can also contact your local shelter, boarding facilities and veterinarian for information

*Access for Service Animals Section 36.104 of Title 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act specifies that a Service animal is "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability." Sec.36.302(c) requires public accommodations to modify policies, practices, and procedures to accommodate the use of service animals in places of public accommodation.*

## Alternative Evacuation Plans: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Emergency Health Information Card:** Make sure emergency health information card explains the best method to communicate with you, i.e.: written notes, pointing to letters/words/pictures, finding a quiet place, reading lips, etc.

- The card should include the following information: name, home address, phone number, birth date, blood type, Insurance information, emergency contacts, physicians, medications, conditions, allergies, communication and equipment needs.

**Alternative Power:** generator, power converter, batteries, etc.

**Service Animal and Pet Care:** Pets and service animals may become confused, panicked, frightened or disoriented in and after a disaster:

- Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. A leash/harness is an important item for managing a nervous or upset animal. Be prepared to use alternative ways to negotiate your environment.
- Animal Supply Kit: Bowl for food and water, food, blanket for bedding, plastic bags & paper towels, a toy and extra harness  
\*\*Pack supplies in something your animal can carry in case you need to evacuate.\*\*

**The Buddy System:** to check on each other in the event of an emergency or arrange for someone to check on you. If you have home health care service, plan ahead with your agency for emergency procedures. **Teach** those who may need to assist you in an emergency how to operate necessary equipment and how to safely assist you during an emergency. This should be people you trust!

**Home Hazard Hunt:** Securely anchor medical equipment, appliances, bookcases, pictures, hanging plants, etc. Place heavy objects on low shelves. Fasten water heater to the wall. Identify a table, desk, inside wall or other safe place that you can quickly get under during an earthquake.

**Practice:** Every time you practice Lock, Cover & Hold, your fire escape routes and your evacuation routes you double your chance of taking the right action during an emergency.

**Remain Calm:** Emergencies can be stressful. Stress can make medical conditions worse. Having a plan helps. Creating a support system (buddy system is also helpful.

**Lock, Cover & Hold:** If you are in a wheelchair, Lock your wheels in place and cover your head and neck. If you are not in a wheel chair and Drop, Cover & Hold is not a safe option for you get as low as you comfortably can, cover your head and neck and hold on to something to keep you in place.

For more information, go to [www.makeitthrough.org](http://www.makeitthrough.org)