

# Hearing

This Service Dog Emergency Kit Checklist outlines the basic items every person with a service dog should have prepared in advantage to keep their service animal comfortable during the stress of an emergency situation. It is advisable to keep all items in a transportable bag that is easy to access should evacuating the home become necessary. Also, remember to check the kit twice a year to ensure freshness of food, water and medication and to restock any supplies you may have borrowed from the kit. Note: an easy way to remember is to do it when you change the clocks or when you check your smoke alarms bi-annually.



Hearing  
Emergency Preparedness



## Town of Hanover

341 10th St.  
Hanover, ON  
N4N 1P5  
519-364-2780  
hanover.ca

# HEARING



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*Emergency  
Preparedness*

# DETAILS

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A person can be deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. The distinction between these terms is based on the individual's language and means of communicating rather than the degree of hearing loss. In an emergency, the method in which emergency warnings are issued becomes critical to how a person with hearing loss is able to respond and follow instructions to safety.

## Your emergency plan.

- If your network\* is unavailable during an emergency, seek the assistance of others to whom you can communicate your hearing loss by spoken language, moving your lips without sound, pointing to your ear or hearing aid
- Keep a pencil and paper handy
- Obtain a pager that is connected to an emergency paging system at your workplace and/or the building that you live in
- Install a smoke detection system that includes smoke alarms and accessory flashing strobe lights or vibrators to gain your attention if the alarm sounds
- Test smoke alarms on a monthly basis by pushing the test button
- Replace batteries in smoke alarms every six months and whenever there is an indication that the battery is low

## Do's and Don'ts- Assisting People with Disabilities

- Get the person's attention via a visual cue or a gentle touch on their arm before speaking to them
- Face the person and make eye contact when speaking to them as they may rely on speech reading
- Communicate in close proximity
- Speak clearly and naturally
- Use gestures to help explain what you are trying to communicate
- Write a message if there is time and keep a pencil and paper handy
- Avoid approaching the person from behind
- Refrain from shouting or speaking unnaturally slowly
- Do not make loud noises as hearing aids amplify sounds and can create a physical shock to the user

**Remember: individuals are best at knowing their own needs and these should be respected.**



**Tip: expand your network by getting to know your neighbours**

## Additional Items for Your Emergency Survival Kit

- Extra writing pads and pencils
- Flashlight, whistle or noisemaker
- Assistive devices unique to your needs (eg. Hearing aid, pager, personal amplifier)
- Portable visual notification devices that allow you to know if a person is at the door or calling on the telephone
- Extra batteries for assistive devices
- A CommuniCard (produced by The Canadian Hearing Society) that explains your hearing loss and also helps identify how rescuers or assisters can communicate with you during an emergency
- Any other contingency supplies unique to your special needs

**Note: typically people who are deafened or hard of hearing will need information presented in a text format.**

**Remember: Individuals are best at knowing their own needs and these should be respected.**