

Vision

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.



Vision
Emergency Preparedness



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VISION



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DETAILS



Vision loss can include a broad range of conditions from complete blindness to partial or low vision that cannot be corrected with lenses or surgery. A person's ability to read signs or move through unfamiliar environments during an emergency

Emergencies can occur at any time... be prepared.

may be challenged, creating a feeling of being lost and/or dependency on others for guidance.

Your emergency plan.

- Have a long cane available to readily maneuver around debris on the floor or furniture that may have shifted after an emergency
- Mark all emergency supplies, gas, water and electric shutoff valves in advance with fluorescent tape, large print or Braille
- Familiarize yourself in advance, with all escape routes and locations of emergency doors/exits on each floor of any building where you work, love and/or visit

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

- Always ask first, if you can be of assistance to them
- For people who are deaf-blind, use your finger to draw an "x" on their back to let them know you are there to help during an emergency
- To communicate with a deaf-blind person, try tracing letters with your finger on the palm of their hand
- To guide the person, offer them your arm instead of taking theirs and walk at their pace; keep half a step ahead of them
- If the person has a service dog, ask them where you should walk to avoid distracting the animal
- Provide advance warning of stairs, curbs, obstacles or changes in direction
- Watch for overhangs or protrusions the person could walk into
- Do not assume the person cannot see you, or that they need your help
- Never grab or touch a person with vision loss



Tip: expand your network by getting to know your neighbours

- Do not touch, make eye contact or distract the person's service dog as this can seriously endanger the owner
- Do not shout at a person with vision loss; speak clearly and provide specific and precise directions such as 'to your right' or by relaying clock face positions

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

Additional Items for Your Emergency Survival Kit

- Extra white cane, preferably a cane that is longer in length
- Talking or Braille clock
- Large-print timepiece with extra batteries
- Extra vision aids such as an electronic travel aid, monocular, binocular or magnifier
- Extra pair of prescription glasses - if you wear them
- Any reading devices/assistive technology to access information/portable CCTV devices
- Any other contingency supplies unique to your special needs