Be Ready Tip(s) of the Month

December Tip:  Include Special Needs in Emergency Preparations!

Winter storms, power outages, and other natural or man-made hazards can cause stress and risk for all of us. They can be especially worrisome for those with special needs or disabilities. Having a plan and taking steps to be ready for such incidents can reduce day-to-day anxiety for the individual and their loved ones, especially as winter approaches. Be Ready.

Tip #1: Be informed of potential hazards in your area or areas you are traveling.

Tip #2: Make and practice an evacuation plan for the home and other places you frequent.

Tip #3: Make a list of special needs and discuss these with members of the household and neighbors.

Tip #4: Make sure you and others understand how to operate special equipment that may be needed and what to do to ensure needs are met in a power outage.

Tip #5: Consider having backup equipment stored at your evacuation location.

Tip #6: Add supplies such as wheelchair batteries, catheters, oxygen, medication, food for service animals, or other special supplies to your emergency kit.

Tip #7: Prepare any instructions and emergency contact information you need to give rescuers or others who may be around you. Use concise verbal directions, or carry written instructions with you at all times. Practice giving these instructions.

For more information on how to prepare and plan for emergencies with special needs in mind view the Ready Coast Guard fact sheet on making plans for people with special needs at http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/docs/Ready/KP_Special_Needs.pdf.

Be/stay informed, make a plan, build a kit and pass it on, so all are prepared.

Semper Paratus!