

# HOW PREPARED IS YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EMERGENCY?



Preparing your family for any kind of emergency can be a challenge, but when there is a child who is deaf or hard of hearing in the family, there are more considerations with your safety plans. Communicating the information clearly and effectively--along with **showing** them--will prepare them best.

## TOP 10 COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY



✔ **CREATE** a plan for each emergency situation. Make visual copies for each person.



✔ Make sure to **EXPLAIN** clearly each situation and the words associated with the emergency.



✔ Make sure **EVERYONE** knows how to use 9-1-1.

✔ Make sure to **PRACTICE** each plan at different times and have family drills--often if needed. Everyone should be able to **ACT INDEPENDENTLY**, if necessary!



✔ Make sure everyone knows how to **IDENTIFY** dangerous situations and what to do in each:

- Hot door/door handle in a fire
- Heavy smoke
- Outside and see tornado
- Downed power lines and water



✔ Make sure everyone knows **WHERE, WHEN, WHAT and WHY** for any procedures and special equipment or materials needed.

- Strobed smoke detectors
- Weather radio with readable screen and warning light
- Keep the closed captioning on the TV
- Fire extinguisher(s)
- Flashlights with charged batteries



✔ Make sure everyone knows **HOW TO USE** emergency equipment.

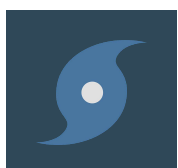


✔ Make sure everyone knows what to do and where to go when the **EMERGENCY IS OVER**.

✔ Plan for **EXTENDED PERIODS WITHOUT** electricity (batteries and recharging for hearing aids / cochlear implants).



✔ **NOTIFY YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES** (fire, police, sheriff) that a child who is **deaf or hard of hearing lives at your home**.



### COMMUNICATION \* COMMUNICATION \* COMMUNICATION



Make sure they **UNDERSTAND** that the plan is to keep *everyone* safe.

This resource was developed by the Resource Materials and Technology Center for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, funded through the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education with IDEA Part B dollars. The information and resources are provided as a free awareness service to the educational community and do not reflect any specific endorsement by any parties involved. Please note that access to some resources may be blocked by individual school districts.