



# 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: Safety for Families of Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing



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



2 **EXPLAIN** each situation clearly and the importance of plans. Use terms associated with the emergency.



3 **TEACH** everyone how to use 9-1-1.



4 **UNDERSTAND** Where, When, What, Why, Who, and How for every plan.



5 **PRACTICE** the plans at different times and from different locations until everyone knows them and can **ACT INDEPENDENTLY**.



6 **LEARN** how to **IDENTIFY** dangerous situations and what to do in each:

- Hot door/door handle in a fire; heavy smoke
- Power outages
- Severe thunderstorms and/or tornados
- Downed power lines and water



7 **ACQUIRE** and make sure everyone knows **HOW TO USE** special equipment or materials.

- Strobed smoke detectors
- Weather radio with readable screen and warning light
- Keep the closed captioning on the TV
- Fire extinguishers
- Flashlights with charged batteries
- Other equipment and devices as needed



8 **KNOW** what to do and where to go during and after the emergency.

9 **PLAN** for extended periods of time without electricity (batteries and recharging for hearing aids/cochlear implants).

10 **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*.