



ReadyKids

Hey kids, if there's ever an unexpected emergency or disaster in Georgia, you can help! It's important for your family to have a plan and be prepared. The tips below will help you learn what you can do to help adults in charge during an emergency. Don't be scared. Be prepared!

Pack a Ready kit

- Help your parents, grandparents or guardians put together a Ready kit.
- Pack books and board games in your Ready kit so you'll have activities to keep you busy.

Know how to get in touch with family members

- Decide who each family member will call if you are separated during an emergency.
- It might be easier to reach a relative who's out of town. Everyone in the family can contact an aunt, uncle or grandparent to let them know you're okay.
- You should keep a copy of your family's contact numbers and meeting places taped to the inside of your binder, homework notebook or book bag.

Pick a family meeting place

- Choose an easy-to-find location near your home, and then practice getting there from different locations around your neighborhood.
- Also, choose an easy-to-find location outside of your neighborhood in case you can't get home.

Learn what to do at school

- Every public school in Georgia is required to have a safety plan. Depending on the emergency, you may stay in your classroom or go somewhere else.
- Have your parents or guardians talk to your teacher or principal about your school's plan.

Don't forget your pet!

- Make a Ready kit for your pet, too!
- Remind Mom and Dad to make a plan for what you'll do with your pets during an emergency. Remember, you may not be able to take them to a shelter.

Visit the *Ready Georgia* Web site

- With your parents' permission, visit the kids' page at www.ready.ga.gov. You'll find interactive games, videos and important information on preparedness.

Always remember: If an unexpected emergency does happen, stay calm and listen to directions from adults around you, like your teachers, parents and emergency officials.

Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 600,000 families in Georgia have a family member with a disability. By evaluating personal needs and tailoring an emergency plan to fit those needs, persons with special needs and their caregivers can be better prepared when disaster strikes.

In addition to assembling your basic Ready kit, consider the following:

- Create a support network to help in an emergency, and tell these people where you keep your emergency supplies.
- Give one member of your support network a key to your house or apartment.
- Contact your city or county government's emergency management office. Many local offices keep lists of people with disabilities so they can be located quickly in a sudden emergency.
- Wear medical alert tags or bracelets to help identify your disability.
- If you are dependent on dialysis or other life sustaining treatment, know the location and availability of more than one facility.
- If you have a wheelchair, show others how to operate it, and know its size and weight in case it has to be transported.
- If you have a communication-related disability, make sure your emergency information notes the best way to communicate with you.
- Keep extra prescription medicines on hand.
- In a waterproof container in your Ready kit, store:
 - A list of all your medications including dosage, and a list of any allergies
 - Extra eyeglasses, hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries and oxygen
 - A list of the style and serial number of medical devices
 - Medical insurance information and Medicare cards
 - A list of doctors, relatives or friends who should be notified if you are hurt
- Make plans for your service animals or pets. Most shelters accept service animals, but not all shelters accept pets, so plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your animal.
 - Consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.
 - Have a Ready kit prepared for your service animal or pet as well, including food, water, carrier or leash, medicines and veterinarian's contact information.

Older Georgians

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, almost 800,000 Georgians are over age 65. Many senior citizens in Georgia have unique medical needs, and surviving tomorrow's disaster often depends on the planning and preparation made today. A commitment to learning about local resources will help you prepare for any emergency situation.

In addition to assembling your basic Ready kit, consider the following:

- Create a support network of family, friends and others who can assist you during an emergency, and share your disaster plans with them.
- Make sure someone in your disaster network has a key to your home or apartment.
- You may not have access to a drugstore or medical facility for at least a week, maybe longer, so plan to make it on your own.
 - Make a list of prescription medicines including dosage, and a list of allergies.
- If you undergo routine treatments administered by a clinic or hospital, talk to your service provider about their emergency plans and work with them to identify back-up service providers.
- Consider other personal needs such as extra eyeglasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen.
- Keep copies of important documents in a water proof container in your Ready kit, including:
 - medical records, medical insurance and Medicare cards
 - wills and deeds
 - social security number
 - bank account information and tax records
 - names and contact information of your support network, as well as your medical provider
- If you have a communication-related disability, make sure your emergency information notes the best way to communicate with you.
- Make plans for your pets or service animals. Most shelters accept service animals, but not all shelters accept pets, so plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your animals.
 - Consider loved ones or friends outside of your immediate area who would be willing to host you and your pets in an emergency.
 - Have a Ready kit prepared for your pet as well, including food, water, carrier or leash, medicines and veterinarian's contact information.