

EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE d/DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Communication

What items help you communicate?

- Cell phone, Ipad, text to speech device
- Communication board
- Picture cards

Practice communicating your wants and needs.

Making the decision to stay or leave

The decision to stay or leave can be difficult when you or someone you care is d/Deaf or hard of hearing. Hesitation to leave may come from fear of how you will communicate with others in an unfamiliar setting.

Staying may also be challenging as overall communication such as news may be limited if electricity, cellular service, or wifi is impacted.

Staying

- Can you maintain your health and well-being if there is no electricity, water, or access to supplies, or community activities?
- Do you or your loved one rely on electricity for devices for information, communication, or coping?
- What is the battery life of any devices that you may use such as cochlear implants?
- Do you have chargeable devices? Do you have a portable charger to charge them?
- Do you have extra batteries for your devices?
- Having a notepad and pen can be helpful if communicating with first responders becomes necessary and alternate forms of communication are not available.

Leaving

- Hearing aids are frequently left behind when leaving or evacuating. Be sure to include them (if used) when you are leaving.
- Bring additional hearing aid batteries.
- Bring any chargers for devices.

Transportation

- Make transportation arrangements before an emergency.
- Technology may be affected once a storm gets close so Wifi may not be available. Videophone (VP) systems may also be affected since it relies on working internet.

- If you do not have family or friends you can rely on, call the local Office of Emergency Preparedness to let them know you will need a ride.
- We have included a QR code for every OEP office in the state. Find your parish.



- Confirm that your transportation will also provide a ride back home after the event.

Sheltering

- If you use ASL to communicate, request an interpreter from shelter staff. A notepad and pen may be helpful until an interpreter arrives.
- Shelter staff may assume you are able to hear if you are able to speak. Have an alternate way to communicate that you are unable to hear.
- Request that all notifications, announcements, and messaging be provided to you in an accessible format.
 - captions on televisions or screens
 - printed materials
 - visual aids on the walls of shelters

Returning Home

- Are internet services up and running?
- Are you able to receive up to date news?