

IFSP Regional Council Coordinated Regional Council: Safety Planning and Emergency Preparedness for People with Developmental Disabilities

Additional Resources

July 16, 2026

Fire Safety at Home and Beyond

Fire Safety and Prevention Resources

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): [Safety Tip Sheets](#)
- [Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol](#)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): [Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction](#)
- Fire Safety Research Institute: [Close Before You Doze](#)
- NFPA: [Carbon Monoxide Safety](#)
- Find a fire department near you: [Fire Department locations in Virginia](#)

Fire Misuse

- FEMA: [Youth Firesetting](#)
- Youth Firesetting Information Repository & Evaluation System (YFIRES): [Information for Caregivers](#)

Life Safety Information

Trainings and Education

- American Red Cross of Virginia: [CPR and First Aid trainings](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)
- Virginia Beach Fire Department: [Life Safety Education](#)

Medical Condition Forms

If you or someone in your home has a serious medical condition and uses electrically-powered medical equipment, you can submit a serious medical condition form to your utility company to keep the service from being shut off. (Utility companies must follow special rules before disconnecting services under [The Code of](#)

[Virginia 20VAC5-330.](#)) You or your loved one's doctor or nurse practitioner must fill out this form. Follow your utility company's instructions to submit your form. Some Virginia utility companies are listed below.

- Legal Aid Justice Center: [Protecting Electric Utility Access for Those with Serious Medical Conditions](#)
- Appalachian Power: [Medical Condition Certification form](#)
- Dominion Energy: [Medical Condition form](#)
- Old Dominion Power (ODP): [ODP guidance](#)

Home Safety and Accessory Equipment

Emergency Alerts through Electronic Devices

Your city or county might have their own emergency notification system! Here is one in the IFSP's Eastern Region.

- Gloucester County Emergency Management: [BEE Alert Emergency Notification System](#)

Waiver Recipients Only:

- Safe-In-Home: [Remote Support Technology](#)
Melanie Shumate, Senior Remote Support Specialist: mshumate@safeinhome.com

Note: [Contact your CSB](#) and/or support coordinator for details about the services below:

- Electronic Home-Based Support Services
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Emergency Preparedness Resources for People with Disabilities

- Ready.gov: [Make a Plan](#)
- The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled: [Emergency Preparedness](#)

Emergency Preparedness Resources for Families of Children with Disabilities

Create a Family Emergency Plan

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM): Make a Plan

- Helps families create an emergency plan, build an emergency kit, and prepare for disasters common in Virginia.
- <https://vdem.virginia.gov/prepare/make-a-plan/>

CDC: Emergency Preparedness and Disability Inclusion

- Practical guidance for preparing individuals with disabilities for emergencies, including planning for medications, equipment, caregivers, communication needs, and accessible shelters.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/disability-emergency-preparedness/index.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS): Emergency Preparedness Resources for Persons with Disabilities

- National collection of preparedness resources, planning guides, and accessibility information for people with disabilities and their families.
- <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/emergency-preparedness/resources-persons-disabilities/index.html>

Temple University Institute on Disabilities: Emergency Preparedness Resources

- Offers easy-to-use checklists, planning tools, and educational materials specifically designed for people with disabilities and their support networks.
- <https://disabilities.temple.edu/eprep>

American Red Cross: Inclusive Preparedness Resources

- Provides emergency preparedness guidance tailored for people with disabilities, older adults, caregivers, and community organizations.
- <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/inclusive-preparedness-resources.html>

Prepare Information for First Responders and Healthcare Providers

DBHDS My Care Passport

- A Virginia tool that helps individuals summarize important medical, communication, behavioral, and support information to share during emergencies or healthcare visits.
- <https://dbhds.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DBHDS-My-Care-Passport-9.25.22.pdf>

Vial of Life

- A simple program that stores important medical information in a highly visible location (typically the refrigerator) so emergency responders can quickly access it.
- www.vialoflife.com

Build Community Connections Before an Emergency

Virginia Department of Emergency Management: Partners in Preparedness

- Connects individuals, families, organizations, and businesses to statewide emergency preparedness initiatives and community partnerships.
- <https://vdem.virginia.gov/prepare/partners-in-preparedness/>

The Inclusion Project: Belonging

- Resources to help families build relationships, strengthen community connections, and increase natural supports that can be especially valuable during emergencies.
- <https://inclusionproject.partnership.vcu.edu/resources/belonging/>

Inclusive Emergency Planning in Schools

The Inclusion Project: Inclusive Emergency Planning

- Virginia-specific, family-friendly resources for developing emergency plans that consider communication needs, sensory supports, medical equipment, caregivers, and other disability-related considerations.
- <https://inclusionproject.partnership.vcu.edu/resources/inclusive-emergency-planning/>

Medical Identification and Communication Products

Coatney Creations (Etsy)

- Offers personalized medical identification items, including backpack tags, zipper pulls, and emergency information accessories that can help communicate important information during emergencies.
- <https://www.etsy.com/shop/CoatneyCreations>

3S Embroidery Craft, LLC (Etsy)

- Creates custom embroidered medical alert patches, backpack tags, and identification products that help first responders quickly recognize medical or disability-related needs.
- <https://www.etsy.com/shop/3SEmbroideryCraftLLC>