In a Disaster, how do I know that my needs will be met?

- **PREPARE IN ADVANCE**

Make sure you are prepared for an emergency. Create a family plan, put together a kit of emergency supplies, and know where to get information. www.specialneedspa.org has a list of resources if you need more information.

- **HELP EMERGENCY RESPONDERS HELP YOU**

By signing up for the Registry, you can help us plan to meet your needs.

Remember:

- You are the best person to know what your abilities and needs are before, during and after a disaster. It is important to know how to prepare, plan and communicate your needs and abilities
- In an emergency, the government and other agencies may not be able to meet all of your needs.
- It is important for everyone to make their own plans to care for themselves in an emergency.

www.specialneedspa.org

The Registry is a cooperative effort between Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force

Bucks County Emergency Management
911Freedom Way
Ivyland, PA 18974
215-340-8700
www.buckscounty.org

Chester County Emergency Services
601 Westtown Road
Suite 012, West Chester, PA 19380
610-344-5000
www.chesco.org/des

Delaware County Emergency Management
360 N. Middletown Road, Lima, PA 19063
610-565-8700
www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/emergency.html

Montgomery County Public Safety
50 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403
610-631-6500
www.dps.montcopa.org

READY NOTIFYPA™ Find Out First!

If you have questions about the Special Needs Registry please contact:
specialneedshelp@chesco.org

Are you Registered and Ready?

www.specialneedspa.org

Special Needs Registry

The Special Needs Registry is a planning tool to allow citizens with special needs the opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies, so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster.

In an emergency, the first line of defense is personal preparedness.

It is important that all citizens have a personal emergency plan.

Who is an individual with special needs?

An individual with special needs is someone who will require assistance in excess of that provided to the general public in a time of disaster, particularly in the event that large scale evacuation is necessary. You may have heard the term *special needs, vulnerable populations*, or *access and functional needs.*

Sign up if you or a loved one may have trouble:

- **Receiving emergency orders**
- **Understanding emergency orders**
- **Acting upon emergency orders**

Why should I sign up?

By signing up for the Registry you will let emergency responders know who you are and what your needs are. The information you provide will be used in the planning process, as well as in response during a disaster. If a disaster occurs in your area, this registry will be used to enhance the efficiency of response agencies to serve those with specific needs. You can sign up a family member or loved one.

There is never a guarantee of immediate assistance during an emergency, so you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days

When will my information be used?

Emergency responders will use it to plan for large scale emergencies. Each municipality determines how they will use the information. The information will be held securely and only accessed for the purpose of emergency response and planning. The information collected will not be available to the public.

How do I sign up?

Go to:

www.specialneedspa.org

Will anyone contact me after I enter information?

You will be e-mailed once a year to verify and ensure the information provided is correct and to make any necessary changes. It will be sent to the e-mail address you gave us when you signed up. If you completed a paper survey, you'll get a phone call or letter once a year. Individual surveys will be archived after one year if not verified and facility surveys will be archived after six months.

If I have a loved one who lives in a facility where other people take care of them, should I enter their information?

No. This tool is only for people who live in private homes. We are working on plans to help identify people that live in other types of places.

Facilities that serve individuals with special needs can also sign up. Emergency responders will be able to communicate with facilities during emergencies, such as a public health outbreak, or a mass care incident. This will allow facilities to receive up to date information on emergencies so that they can best provide for their clients and community.

What if I don't have access to a computer?

First of all, ask a friend or family member to help you sign up online. Or you can call your local municipality or County Emergency Management Agency to request a paper form.

You are the best person to know what your abilities and needs are before, during and after a disaster. Know how to prepare, plan and communicate your needs and abilities.