

# PLANNING WITH SOMEONE WHO USES ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (AT) refers to any device that enables or enhances a person's independence, self-confidence, or access to their community. Assistive Technologies devices can be anything from a common device, such as eye glasses, to a complicated device, like an entire environmental system.

## STEP 1: WHAT DISASTERS?



Talk to your partner about likely disasters they may confront, and what concerns they may have about their Assistive Technology Device(s).

*What kinds of disasters are you likely to face in your area?*

*How would that impact you during disasters?*

## STEP 2: MY CONCERNS



Ask your partner what their personal concerns are if a disaster occurred.

*How would a loss of power affect your partner's assistive device?*

*Is there a back-up supply of batteries, or essential supports, to keep the AT working?*

## STEP 3: PEOPLE WHO CAN



Support networks can be either informal, such as family, friends, and neighbors, or formal such as a social service agency, medical supplier, or pharmacy.

*Who would your partner normally go to, or call, if their assistive device doesn't work?*

*Does the power company provide any resources during sudden outages?*

## STEP 4: HOW YOU GET INFORMATION AND WARNINGS



Getting timely and accurate information before, during, and

after a disaster is a very important step to staying safe. Many AT users rely on technologies for communication.

*Does your partner have more than one way to communicate?*

*Is there a low tech or no tech device that could be used in a disaster situation?*

## STEP 5: AND STAY IN TOUCH



It is important to stay in touch with friends, family, neighbors, and organizations which can help during a disaster.

*If the path to a meeting point is blocked, is there an alternative?*

*Does your partner have more than one way to connect with people during a disaster?*

## STEP 6: WHAT YOU NEED TO SHELTER AT HOME AND IF YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE



If sheltering at home, build a strong capacity to reduce the need of leaving.

*What kind of back-up equipment has your partner planned to use, if needed?*



If evacuating, plan ahead of time what you will need to leave home with the minimum equipment.

*Is your partner's AT equipment portable?*

*Would the supplies in the "Go-Kit" meet their needs?*

## STEP 7: HOW YOU LEAVE



If your partner does not drive, getting accessible transportation during a disaster will take planning.

*Would your partner be relying on public transportation to leave their residence or location?*

## STEP 8: WHERE WILL YOU GO HOW



Most public shelters are only opened for a short time before they are closed.

*Are your partner's AT needs going to be met at a shelter?*

*Is there a location where your partner could relocate to if the shelter closes?*

## STEP 9: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RETURN HOME



Once home, people should check for damage and begin to reestablish connections with their AT vendor and restock supplies as soon as possible.

*What type of AT support will your partner need when returning home?*

*If equipment was damaged, what would your partner do?*