

## Service Dog Checklist

This Service Dog Emergency Kit Checklist outlines the basic items every person with a service dog should have prepared in advance to keep their service animal comfortable during the stress of an emergency situation. It is advisable to keep all items in a transportable bag that is easy to access should evacuating the home become necessary. Also, remember to check the kit twice a year to ensure freshness of food, water and medication and to restock any supplies you may have borrowed from the kit. Note: an easy way to remember is to do it when you change the clocks or when you check your smoke alarms bi-annually.

- minimum 3 day supply of bottled water and pet food
- paper towels and can opener
- medications with a list identifying reasons (e.g. , medical condition), dosage, frequency and contact information of prescribing veterinarian
- medical records including vaccinations
- leash/harness
- muzzle (if required)
- blanket and favourite toy
- plastic bags
- up-to-date ID tag with your phone number and name/phone number of your veterinarian (microchipping is also recommended)

- current photo of your service dog in case it gets lost or separated from you
- copy of licence (if required)

## Pet owners

While service dogs are accepted at shelters in an emergency, family pets are not, therefore it is advisable for pet owners to prepare a similar emergency kit for each family pet. In the case of cats, include a cat carrier litter pan, litter, scooper and plastic bags. It is also recommended for pet owners to make arrangements with family and friends to care for their pets should it become necessary to evacuate the home.

**TIP: expand your network by getting to know your neighbours.**

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Information drawn from the Emergency  
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Disabilities/Special Needs, prepared by  
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For more information, please contact:

**Halton Region**

905-825-6000

Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)

TTY: 905-827-9833

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# Hearing

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## Emergency preparedness

Available in alternate format

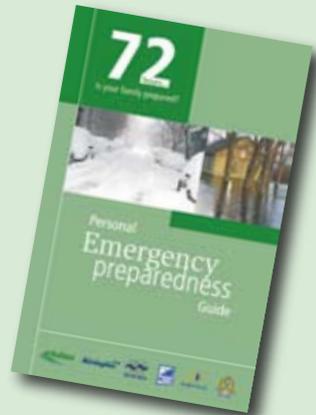


Emergencies can occur at any time and your best defence is to be prepared. Halton Region's pamphlet series on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities/special needs includes:

- Hearing
- Highrise Safety
- Mobility
- Non-Visible Disabilities\*
- Seniors With Special Needs
- Travel Considerations
- Vision

\* Can include communication, cognitive, sensory, mental health, learning or intellectual disabilities.

These pamphlets supplement the information found in Halton Region's Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide, available at [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca). Use the contact information provided to order your copy.



A person can be deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. The distinction between these terms is based on the individual's language and means of communicating rather than the degree of hearing loss.

In an emergency, the method in which emergency warnings are issued becomes critical to how a person with hearing loss is able to respond and follow instructions to safety.

## Your Emergency Plan

- if your network\* is unavailable during an emergency, seek the assistance of others to whom you can communicate your hearing loss by spoken language, moving your lips without sound, pointing to your ear or hearing aid
- keep a pencil and paper handy
- obtain a pager that is connected to an emergency paging system at your workplace and/or the building that you live in
- install a smoke detection system that includes smoke alarms and accessory flashing strobe lights or vibrators to gain your attention if the alarms sound
- test smoke alarms on a monthly basis by pushing the test button
- replace batteries in smoke alarms every six months and whenever there is an indication that the battery is low

- keep a laminated card on your person and in your survival kit that identifies you as deaf or hard of hearing and explains how to communicate with you
- \* Your 'network' is a list of the people that can be called upon to provide assistance.

## Dos and Don'ts - Assisting People with Disabilities

- ✓ get the person's attention via a visual cue or a gentle touch on their arm before speaking to them
- ✓ face the person and make eye contact when speaking to them as they may rely on speech reading
- ✓ communicate in close proximity
- ✓ speak clearly and naturally
- ✓ use gestures to help explain what you are trying to communicate
- ✓ write a message if there is time and keep a pencil and paper handy
- ✗ avoid approaching the person from behind
- ✗ refrain from shouting or speaking unnaturally slowly
- ✗ do not make loud noises as hearing aids amplify sounds and can create a physical shock to the user

## Additional Items for Your Emergency Survival Kit

- extra writing pads and pencils
- flashlight, whistle or noisemaker
- pre-printed key phrases you would use during an emergency
- assistive devices unique to your needs (e.g. hearing aid, pager, personal amplifier etc.)
- portable visual notification devices that allow you to know if a person is at the door or calling on the telephone
- extra batteries for assistive devices
- a CommuniCard (produced by The Canadian Hearing Society) that explains your hearing loss and also helps identify how rescuers or assisters can communicate with you during an emergency
- any other contingency supplies unique to your special needs

**Note:** typically people who are deafened or hard of hearing will need information presented in a text format.

Remember: individuals are best at knowing their own needs and these should be respected.