

Conduct a “hazard hunt” in your residence to remove any items that could hinder your movement away from a dangerous area:

- Secure or remove throw rugs and carpet
- Make sure evacuation routes are passable, given any limitations you may have

Keep support items such as wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices in a designated place so they can be found quickly.



## Personal emergency kit

In addition to an emergency kit, seniors should keep specialized items ready, including extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, catheters, medication, food for service animals and any other items you might need.

Keep a list of the type and model numbers of the medical devices you use. Include extra eyeglasses and hearing aid batteries.

Keep copies of insurance, Medicare cards, and other important documents in your kit or on a flashdrive.



Switch to electronic payment for your Social Security benefits. Federal benefit recipients can sign up by calling (800) 333-1795 or at [www.godirect.org](http://www.godirect.org).

Check medications, batteries and other supplies for expiration dates. Refill prescriptions as soon as you are eligible in order to maximize the amount of medication you have on hand.

## Credits

- Oregon Office of Emergency Management
- Ashland Fire & Rescue
- Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
- Hood River County
- Coos County Emergency Management

## Websites

[www.Oregon.gov/OEM](http://www.Oregon.gov/OEM)

[www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)



# Preparedness for Seniors



# PREPARING MAKES SENSE FOR OLDER OREGONIANS



## Introduction to “Two Weeks Ready”

Preparing for disasters can be done over time. The traditional three days of supplies is a good start and helpful for short-term power outages or temporary evacuation. But a large earthquake and tsunami will leave much of the region’s transportation routes destroyed. Delivery of assistance and supplies will be difficult or impossible initially. People will have to count on each other in the community, in the workplace and at home in order to be safe until responders can reach them. It is recommended that families, neighborhoods and communities strive to be self-sufficient for two weeks.



## Preparedness for seniors

As we age, our needs and abilities change. There are common-sense measures older people can take to start preparing for emergencies before they happen.

Whether you live alone or depend on a caregiver, if you are in good health or have physical limitations, it’s important to have a plan for what to do before, during and after a disaster. It can be empowering to identify what you need and to ensure those needs are met when a disaster strikes.

Create a personal support network of neighbors, relatives and friends in case you need help in an emergency. Discuss your needs and make sure your support network knows:

- Your medications
- Your physical needs and how to operate necessary equipment for your health and safety
- Emergency plans for the facility or care center where you may reside
- Your local and out-of-state contact information



You may also want to learn text messaging so you can let friends/family know you are safe since phone lines may be overwhelmed or not operating.

Have a frank conversation with your support network to determine in advance where you will go and who will be able to care for you for at least two weeks.



## Make a plan

Label any equipment such as canes, walkers, oxygen tanks or wheelchairs with your name and contact information. Keep hearing aids, glasses and other assistive devices near the bedside. You may want to attach the equipment with Velcro. Some disasters, particularly earthquakes, may cause items to shift. One idea would be to put these small items in a plastic grocery bag and tie it to the bed post (or hang it there if possible).