

June - Mobility Impairments

12-Months-To-Preparedness

Fact:
A quadriplegic man escaped the World Trade Center with the help of several coworkers who carried him down the stairs in a lightweight chair



nationalgeographic.com

A mobility disability refers to a person's difficulty or inability to use his or her arms or legs. For these individuals, it is especially important to develop an evacuation plan and personal support network in the case of an emergency.

The following tips are helpful when preparing for an emergency:

- Several companies make products to assist evacuation from multi-story buildings. These are useful, but not always practical when wheelchairs or other devices to assist mobility must be abandoned.
- If evacuation is not possible, await rescue in a building's designated area of refuge.
- A personal support network should include trusted individuals who are familiar with the disabled person's functional abilities and limitations.
- Memorize or write a few critical phrases to quickly explain you or your loved one's situation to first responders.
- Federal regulations allow persons with mobility disabilities to use general public shelters and bring their service animals with them. However, if additional medical assistance is required, it is recommended that these individuals seek out a special needs shelter.

Disaster kit items for individuals with mobility impairments:

- 1) A pair of heavy gloves to use while wheeling or making his or her way over glass and debris
- 2) An extra battery for motorized wheelchair or scooter
- 3) Jumper cables or a specific recharging device to be connected to an automobile's cigarette lighter
- 4) A patch kit or can of "seal-in-air product" to repair flat tires
- 5) A spare cane or walker
- 6) Food, medicine, a favorite toy, and other care items for a service animal
- 7) Plastic bags, disposable gloves, and other items for the animal's care

Additional disaster kit items:

This month's supplies are:

- 1) Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or your 12 months to preparedness flyers
- 2) Rain Gear - Large scale emergencies and disasters are often associated with inclement weather
- 3) Tent - Shelter may not be available for a period of time. Having your own tent may help to protect you from the elements