

# July - Sensory Disabilities

12-Months-To-Preparedness

**Fact:**

**During Hurricane Katrina 80% of shelters did not have TTY access and only 30% had access to an ASL interpreter**



**Here is some disaster information for those with sensory disabilities:  
(reallyready.org)**

## **Warning and Response:**

- If you are deaf, find out if fire alarms in buildings you frequent and are visual
- If you are blind, be aware that alarms may be so loud they will drown out audio cues, such as the sound of people running
- Ask members of your support network to alert you to warnings and alarms
- If you use telecommunications relay services, look into different backup options including: dialing 711 (nationwide), CapTel (captioned telephone), internet-based relay services (through broadband)

## **Sheltering:**

- Be prepared to communicate without an interpreter to tell shelter operators what your needs are
- If you are blind or visually impaired, expect to require assistance finding a place to sit and the location of the restroom and food line
- Be prepared to explain to shelter staff that federal regulations allow you to take your service animal into the shelter

## **Disaster kit items for individuals with sensory disabilities:**

- 1) Pad and paper with pens or pencils for writing notes
- 2) Extra batteries for tape recorders, TTYs, etc.
- 3) Extra pair of dark glasses, if medically required
- 4) Folding mobility cane