

Special Needs Registry

Lessons learned from past disasters tell us it is never too early to prepare. Advanced planning and preparedness is especially important for people with special needs, which is defined as those individuals who cannot receive, understand or act upon emergency protective orders. During a natural or manmade disaster that requires evacuation, it is important that everyone be prepared to evacuate him or herself to the greatest extent possible. However, there will be those who must rely on emergency responders despite their individual preparedness efforts. In those instances, emergency responders must be able to rapidly identify the location, accessibility issues and mobility requirements.

The Plumstead Township Emergency Management Agency, Bucks County Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the Bucks County Health Department and the County Commissioners, are introducing the Special Needs Registry for individuals who will require assistance during an emergency.

The Special Needs Registry is a free, voluntary, and strictly confidential program. It is designed to help those who would have difficulty during an evacuation, because of physical or cognitive limitations, language barriers, or lack of transportation. It will help your first responders make the best use of limited time and resources to help those with no other options for evacuation during an emergency. Individuals (or caregivers on their behalf) are able to register electronically, by accessing www.specialneedspa.org or contacting the Plumstead Township Fire Marshal/ Emergency Management Coordinator at (215) 766-8914 or via e-mail at firemarshal@plumstead.gov. Numerous communities, civic, faith-based, medical, and non-profit organizations are also helping to register people with special needs.