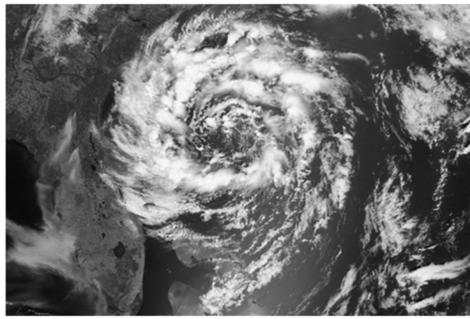


## Stay Informed

Receive important notifications by phone, e-mail, and cell phone text. Catawba County can use the CodeRED® Community Alert System to contact you when there is a public safety emergency. CodeRED® links phone numbers to mapped addresses to call people living in a very specific area. It is a supplement to local media, and except for possible nominal cell phone charges it is free to residents of Catawba County. Your information will only be shared with city officials to contact you regarding public safety issues.

Messages may include alerts regarding hazardous material spills, acts of terrorism, or weather related emergencies. Urgent messages from your city officials may include alerts such as utility service interruptions or water contamination. The message would include instructions about where to go, what to do, and contacts for further assistance. You will be able to replay the message, and you can also use Caller ID to retrieve the message. Caller ID will either show "Emergency Communications Network" or the toll-free number 866-419-5000.

In an emergency, the Community Alert System will be used to provide important updates such as shelter locations for your area. Do not call 911 for more information.



## Disaster Plan

- Arrange for someone to check on you.
- Plan and practice escape routes from your home.
- Plan for transportation if you need to evacuate to a shelter.
- Find the safe places in your home for each type of emergency.
- Have a plan to signal the need for help.
- Keep emergency phone numbers near the phone and in your emergency kit.
- Prepare emergency kits for home and possible evacuation
- Teach those who may need to assist you in an emergency how to operate necessary equipment. Be sure they will be able to reach you.



Catawba County  
Emergency Services  
P.O. Box 389  
100-A Southwest Blvd.  
Newton, NC 28658-0389  
Phone: (828) 465-8230  
Fax: (828) 464-4820

# Preparing Citizens with Special Needs For an Emergency

Register Today at  
[www.CatawbaCountyNC.gov/Alert](http://www.CatawbaCountyNC.gov/Alert)  
or call 828-465-8230



# Register Today

## Are You Ready?

Natural or human-caused disasters can strike suddenly, and it is important that you be prepared especially if you have special needs.



Being ready for an emergency is your responsibility. Local officials and emergency personnel will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. Preparing for an emergency for special needs residents includes providing your vital special need information ahead of time for Catawba County first responders.

**Either Complete the enclosed form and mail it back to Catawba County Emergency Services, or fill out the online form at [www.CatawbaCountyNC.gov/Alert](http://www.CatawbaCountyNC.gov/Alert). We will have your information added to our database so that we can identify your needs in the event of an emergency.**

### Prepare for an Emergency

- Make a Disaster Plan
- Make an Emergency Kit
- Stay Informed

## Emergency Kit

The minimum requirements for your home emergency kit are a three-day supply of water, food, and medical supplies.

**Water:** At least one gallon of water per person per day.

**Food:** Pack non-perishable, high-protein items such as energy bars, ready-to-eat soup, peanut butter, etc. Select foods that do not require refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. Pack a manual can opener.

**Medical supplies:** Prescription medications and any other Special Needs supplies.

A disaster of any kind may mean the power will be out. Keep a battery operated radio, a flashlight, and extra batteries with your emergency kit.



For more information on disaster preparedness visit these sites:

Ready.gov  
RedCross.org  
FEMA.gov  
DisabilityPreparedness.gov

## ***Special Needs residents should prepare for evacuation to a safe shelter***

- ✓ *Emergency supplies should be packed and ready in one place. Have someone put your disaster kit together if you need help.*
- ✓ *Pack your kit in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffel bag, labeled with an ID tag.*
- ✓ *Label all equipment such as wheelchairs, canes, or walkers.*
- ✓ *List the style and serial numbers of medical devices such as pacemakers.*
- ✓ *Have a list of contact phone numbers, doctors and relatives or friends who should be notified if you are injured.*
- ✓ *Pack copies of important documents: medical insurance and Medicare cards, I.D. cards, birth certificate, passport.*
- ✓ *Money: Have cash. (ATMs and credit cards won't work with power out).*
- ✓ *Personal supplies for at least three days: medicines (prescription and over-the-counter), medical supplies, toiletries and sanitary supplies, special diet foods, clothing.*
- ✓ *Batteries for eyeglasses and hearing aids.*