

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS FOR PEOPLE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

## Batteries

- Store extra batteries for hearing aids and implants. If available, keep an extra hearing aid with your emergency supplies.
- Store extra batteries for your TTY and light phone signaler.



## Hearing Aids

Store hearing aids in a convenient and secured place, so you can quickly and easily locate them after a disaster, such as a container attached to your night stand or bed post. Missing or damaged hearing aids will be difficult to replace or fix after a major disaster.

## Alarms

Install both audible alarms and visual smoke alarms. At least one should be battery-operated.

## Communication

- Store paper and pens to communicate without an interpreter.
- Carry printed copies of key phrases, such as “I speak American Sign Language and I need an interpreter.”
- Obtain a battery-operated TV with a decoder chip for access to signed reports.
- Determine which broadcasting systems provide captioned news.

## Advocacy

- ✓ Recruit interpreters to be Red Cross emergency volunteers.
- ✓ Maintain pressure on TV stations to broadcast news in open caption format and secure on-camera interpreters.
- ✓ When you travel, ensure hotels have access packets for deaf and hearing impaired persons, including audible alarms. Ask for them when you check in.

## Checklist

- Store and maintain extra hearing aids and batteries.
- Install both audible alarms and visual smoke alarms.
- Write down key phrases for emergency personnel.

