



## Children in Disasters – How Can Pediatric Providers Help?

- PREPARE:** your family, your workplace, patients and families with whom you work, especially consider children with special healthcare needs
- ADVOCATE:** locally, nationally, internationally (follow legislation, write articles for consumer newspapers and magazines, be a pediatric resource)
- VOLUNTEER:** for local shelters, your local Medical Reserve Corps, the American Red Cross

**Families with special needs children are particularly vulnerable during disaster situations. Be aware of the latest literature to help these families prepare.**

- 1) Baker LR & Baker MD. Disaster preparedness among families of children with special health care needs. *Disaster Med Public Health Preparedness*. 2010;4:240-245.
- 2) Baker LR & Cormier LA. Disaster preparedness and families of children with special needs: a geographic comparison. *J Community Health*. 2013;38:106-112.
- 3) Foltin G & Cooper A. Care for children with special health care needs in disasters. *J Pediatr Rehab Med*. 2009;2:87-91.
- 4) Murray JS. Disaster preparedness for children with special healthcare needs and disabilities. *J Spec Pediatr Nurs*. 2011;16:226-232.
- 5) Goodhue CJ, Demeter N, Burke RV, Toor K, Upperman JS, Merritt RJ. Mixed-methods pilot study: disaster preparedness of families with children followed in an intestinal rehabilitation clinic. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2016;31(2):257-265.
- 6) Nakayama T, Tanaka S, Uematsu M, Kikuchi A, Hino-Fukuyo N, Morimoto T, Sakamoto O, Tsuchiya S, Kure S. Effect of a blackout in pediatric patients with home medical devices during the 2011 eastern Japan earthquake. *Brain & Development*. 2014;36:143-147.
- 7) Rath B, Donato J, Duggan A, Perrin K, Bronfin DR, Ratard R, VanDyke R, Magnus M. Adverse health outcomes after Hurricane Katrina among children and adolescents with chronic conditions. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. 2007;18:405-417.
- 8) Sakashita K, Matthews WJ, Yamamoto LG. Disaster preparedness for technology and electricity-dependent children and youth with special health care needs. *Clinical Pediatrics*. 2013;52:549-556.
- 9) Trento L & Allen S. Hurricane Sandy: nutrition support during disasters. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2014;29:576-84.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) created an Emergency Information Form for children with special healthcare needs. The form should be completed by a clinician and updated regularly. Keep the current document on a waterproof thumb drive and also in paper format in a sealed, waterproof bag. Get the form at: <http://www2.aap.org/sections/pem/preparedness/blankform.pdf>