



## **Help For Special Needs Residents During Emergencies**

When disaster strikes, seconds count and knowledge is power. As first responders approach a burning structure, they may not always know what to expect. But, knowing someone inside may have a special need could be the difference between life and death.

The Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) will provide Fort Worth and Tarrant County emergency responders with vital information about residents with permanent disabilities. Through this unique program, residents are encouraged to register each year with the Office of Emergency Management by providing disability-specific information. Such information may include a need for life support systems or mobility aids.

This information will reduce the adverse affects on those with permanent disabilities during an emergency. It will also give residents with special needs the peace of mind knowing first responders are equipped with accurate information to assist during a local disaster. Data compiled for the SNAP program will be confidential for use by emergency response agencies only.

Residents can now register with SNAP online at [www.snapforyou.org](http://www.snapforyou.org). There will also be opportunities to register in person at various events and locations throughout the city. To find out more about those opportunities, or if you have questions about the SNAP program, please call 817-392-6144.

If you or someone in your household has a special need, it's important to incorporate them into your disaster plans. Here are some ways to be prepared:

- Keep seven to 14 days worth of medication on hand.
- Keep support items in a designated place so they can be found quickly.
- Include caretakers in the planning process.
- Provide the power company with a list of all power-dependent life-support equipment and plan for an alternate power source in advance.
- Create an adequate emergency food supply for those with special dietary needs.