

**SERVING, EMPOWERING AND
SUPPORTING MISSOURIANS
TO LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES.**



MO DDD & You: Disaster Planning: Are Your Prepared?

Information for Individuals & Families

Presented by:

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Deb Hendricks, DD Preparedness Coordinator, ODS



**June 24, 2025
12:30pm-1:00pm**



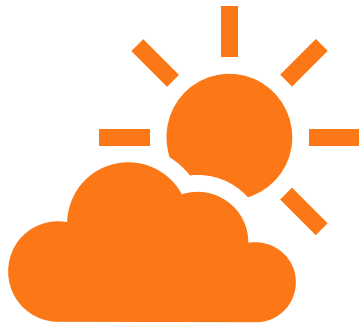
Webinar Talking Points



- Introductions
- When / Why is Disaster Preparedness is Important
- Tools to Help With Planning
 - Guidebooks for Individuals
 - Guidebooks for Providers
- Office of Disaster Services
- Questions
- Wrap up

Emergency Preparedness in Missouri's Summer Heat

Preparedness in All Types of Weather



Missouri throws all types of weather at us in a 12-month period.



It is important to prepare for all of them



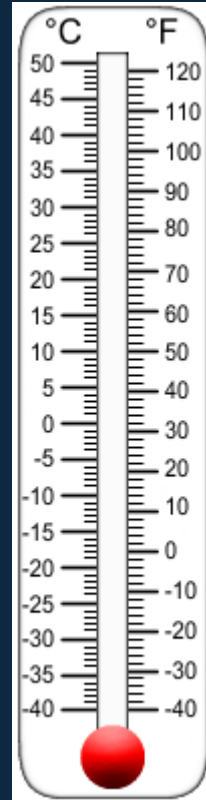
2025

Spring storms

- March
- April
- May

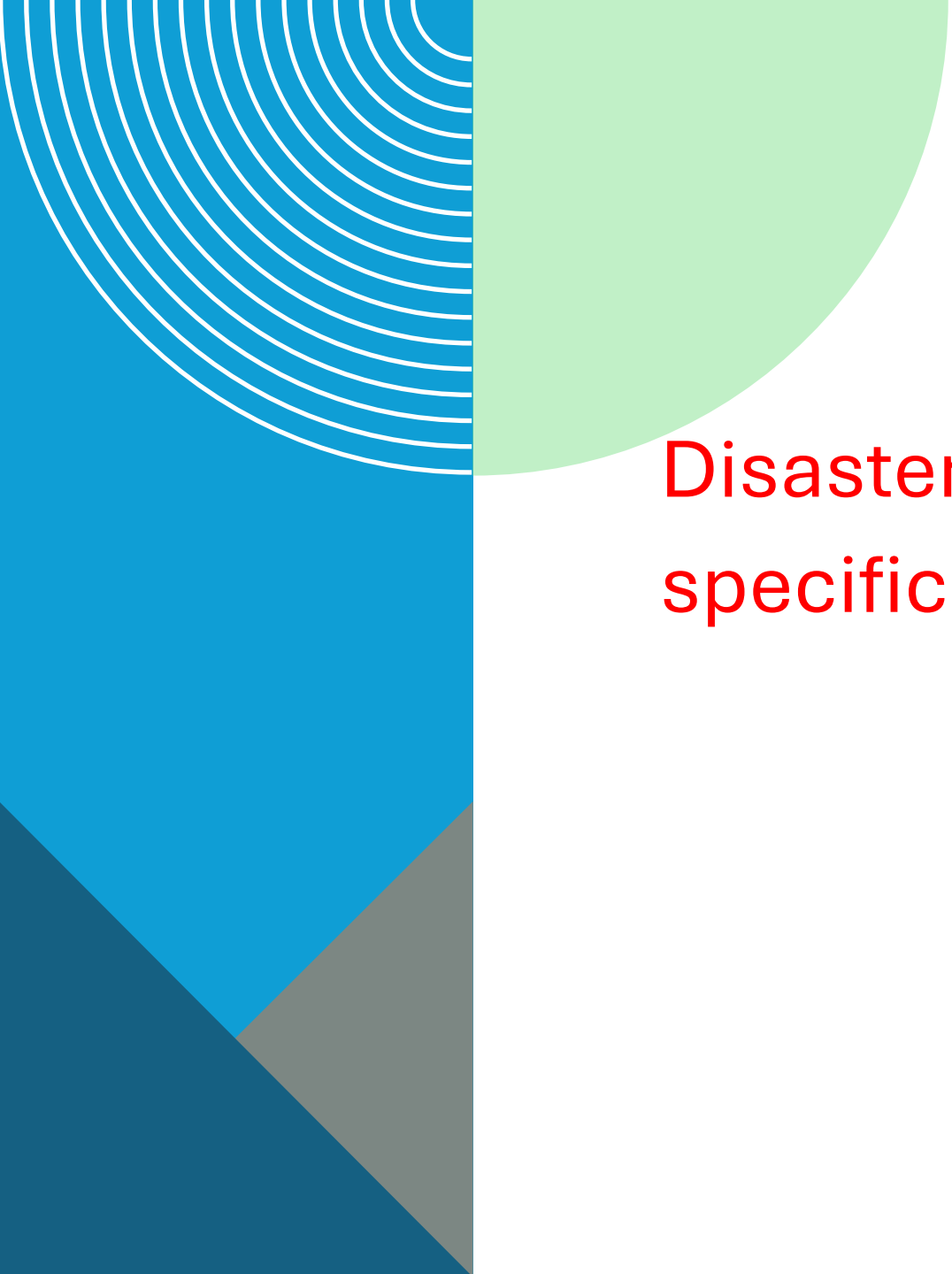
And now . . .

Summer Heat



As the Mercury rises, ensure that Everyone:

- Pays attention to heat advisories and warnings
- Remains indoors during the heat of the day, if possible
- Wears layers of light clothing
- Stays hydrated by drinking extra water
- Keeps cool with fans and air conditioners



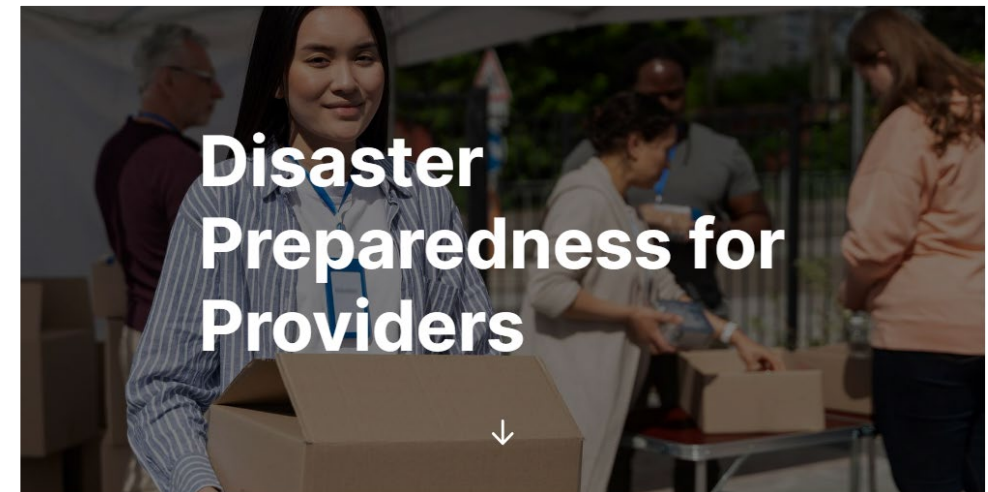
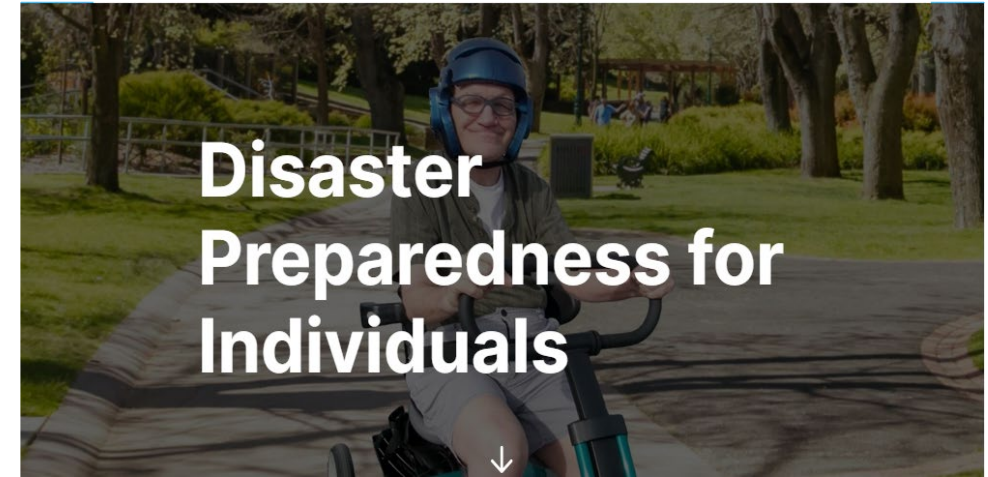
Disaster planning specifically for the I/DD community

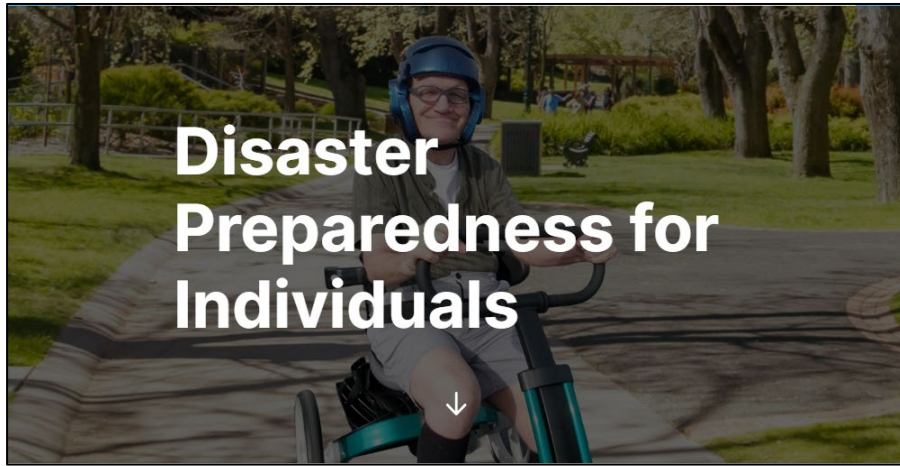
Why do we need this?

Individuals with disabilities are as much as **40%**
more likely to be negatively impacted by
disasters

NEW Planning Guidebooks

- DMH's Office of Disaster Services has created Disaster Preparedness Planning Guidebooks.
- Designed to help providers and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities plan for emergencies and disasters.
- Online and printed versions available.



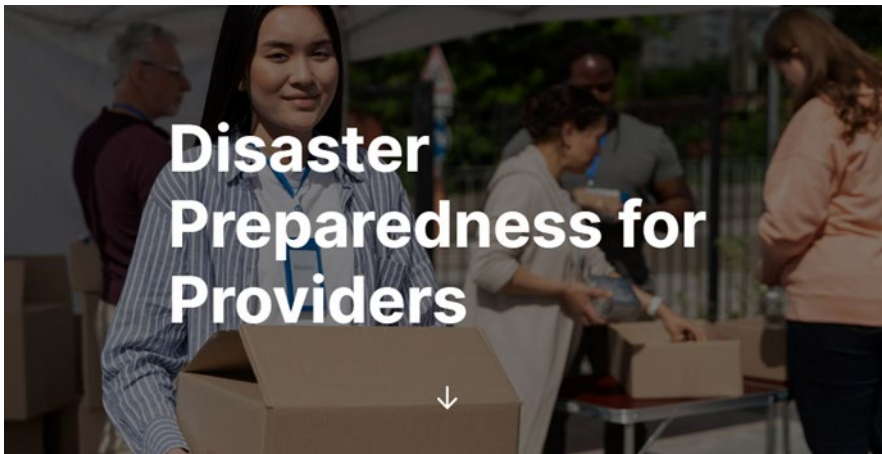


Individual Planning Guidebook

- The Personal Planning Guidebook is designed to be completed by individuals, either alone or with assistance.
- It is written in plain language to increase accessibility.
- It is organized in a question-and-answer format that allows individuals to provide information easily.
- There are also helpful tips to assist individuals with their own preparedness.

If you know a severe storm is coming, what plans do you have in place?

- Do you have a place you can go? Where is that place? Is it a family member's house, neighbor's house, etc.?
- Contact information for that person/location:
 - How will you let them know you are coming?
 - To reach your destination, you might wonder if someone will pick you up or if you should take a city bus or use a service like OATS. It's important to have the bus schedule and contact information ready to ensure a smooth journey.



Provider Planning Guidebook

- It offers considerations for the location's physical plant and overall planning.
- It also mirrors the Personal Guidebook, allowing caregivers to provide specific information on ways to ensure the goals in the personal plans of individuals are met.

Consider, for example:

Does the location have an emergency generator to restore power for electrical equipment?

- How often is the generator tested?
- How much fuel is on hand?

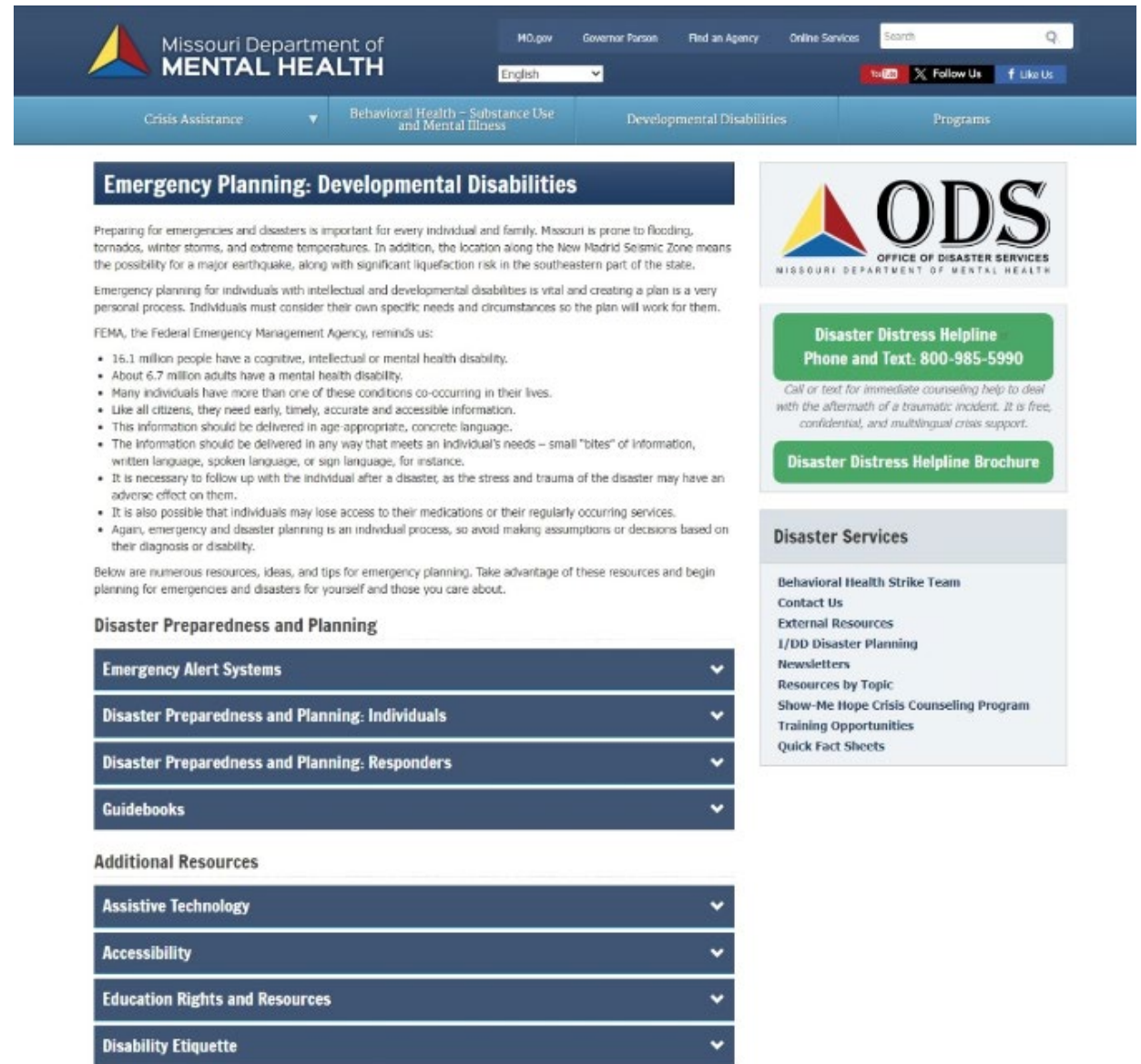
Is the location on emergency utility restoration registries?

- Ensure the contact information for the utilities is readily available.

The individual planning guide describes a "Support System" as "people in your life who help you" and offers suggestions, giving prompts for naming and providing contact information. It is important for you to know who these people are for each individual. Keep in mind that, although this information may be stored on your organization's database, you may not have that connectivity (or the time to access it) during a disaster or emergency. You should have this information readily available to you at all times.

Website – Office of Disaster Services

- A new section on the ODS website has been added: I/DD Disaster Planning.
- Contains resources, ideas, and tips for emergency planning.
- We plan to continue to grow this site!



Missouri Department of MENTAL HEALTH

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English

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Crisis Assistance Behavioral Health – Substance Use and Mental Illness Developmental Disabilities Programs

Emergency Planning: Developmental Disabilities

Preparing for emergencies and disasters is important for every individual and family. Missouri is prone to flooding, tornados, winter storms, and extreme temperatures. In addition, the location along the New Madrid Seismic Zone means the possibility for a major earthquake, along with significant liquefaction risk in the southeastern part of the state.

Emergency planning for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is vital and creating a plan is a very personal process. Individuals must consider their own specific needs and circumstances so the plan will work for them.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, reminds us:

- 16.1 million people have a cognitive, intellectual or mental health disability.
- About 6.7 million adults have a mental health disability.
- Many individuals have more than one of these conditions co-occurring in their lives.
- Like all citizens, they need early, timely, accurate and accessible information.
- This information should be delivered in age appropriate, concrete language.
- The information should be delivered in any way that meets an individual's needs – small "bites" of information, written language, spoken language, or sign language, for instance.
- It is necessary to follow up with the individual after a disaster, as the stress and trauma of the disaster may have an adverse effect on them.
- It is also possible that individuals may lose access to their medications or their regularly occurring services.
- Again, emergency and disaster planning is an individual process, so avoid making assumptions or decisions based on their diagnosis or disability.


Below are numerous resources, ideas, and tips for emergency planning. Take advantage of these resources and begin planning for emergencies and disasters for yourself and those you care about.

Disaster Preparedness and Planning

- Emergency Alert Systems
- Disaster Preparedness and Planning: Individuals
- Disaster Preparedness and Planning: Responders
- Guidebooks

Additional Resources

- Assistive Technology
- Accessibility
- Education Rights and Resources
- Disability Etiquette



Disaster Distress Helpline

Phone and Text: 800-985-5990

Call or text for immediate counseling help to deal with the aftermath of a traumatic incident. It is free, confidential, and multilingual crisis support.

Disaster Distress Helpline Brochure

Disaster Services

- Behavioral Health Strike Team
- Contact Us
- External Resources
- I/DD Disaster Planning
- Newsletters
- Resources by Topic
- Show-Me Hope Crisis Counseling Program
- Training Opportunities
- Quick Fact Sheets

<https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/emergency-planning-dd>



Disaster Preparedness for Providers and Individuals with Disabilities



Access Disaster Preparedness Guidebooks



Disaster Preparedness: Individual Planning Guide

This guide is designed for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. It is designed to help individuals or families plan and be prepared in the event of a disaster.

[View guide](#)

Disaster Preparedness: Provider Planning Guide

This guide is designed for direct service providers, case managers, and others who serve individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). It is designed to help providers plan and be prepared to ensure the needs of those served are met in the event of a disaster.

[View guide](#)

Disaster Preparedness: Video Guides

The video guides are concepts taken directly from the individual and provider planning guides and put into a fun and engaging format. Videos are organized into two modules: Guidebook Concepts and Addressing Personal Needs. Topics include: Overview of the Guidebook, Disaster Preparedness Check, Service Animals, and so much more.

[Login to Start course](#)

Content Hub and DMH Website

<https://dmhmlearning.com/>

Other pieces of the project

As a part of this new focus on disaster/emergency planning for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the Office of Disaster Services is offering:

- Online training on the use of the guidebooks;
- Behavioral Health Strike Team training;
- Emergency/Disaster Preparedness planning assistance;
- COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) Planning Assistance;
- Writing/Editing Disaster Plans;
- Discussion of the Evacuation vs. Shelter-in-Place Decision;
 - Evacuation Planning
 - Shelter-in-Place Planning
- Planning Drills;
- Conducting Drills and Tabletop Exercises;
- Planning for SPED classrooms in schools; and
- Other services as requested.



**FINAL
THOUGHT:**

**Accessibility
Serves
Everyone**



Contact Info

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573-690-2599



Office of Disaster Services (ODS):

<https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services>

Emergency Planning: Developmental Disabilities:

<https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/emergency-planning-dd>

Disaster Preparedness Guides:

<https://dmhmolearning.com/courses/disaster-preparedness-guides/>

Questions?



Mark Your Calendar



Next MO DDD & You

July 22, 2025

12:30pm-1:00pm

Connect with Us!

Missouri Department of Mental Health
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



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Thank You