



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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DPH prepares for Hurricane Ivan victims with special needs shelters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alabama Department of Public Health, working with partners in the private health care community, are making special needs shelter beds available to accommodate people displaced by Hurricane Ivan who have special medical needs.

Caregivers will need to contact an Alabama Department of Public Health toll-free number at 1-866-264-4073 to be referred into the appropriate sheltering facility.

Caregivers will need to accompany special needs individuals and provide three days of medication in the original dispensing bottles. In addition, all needed durable medical equipment will need to accompany the special needs patients.

State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson said, "Space is limited to only those individuals that need this type of assistance."

Special needs shelter patients include the following persons having:

- Progressive Alzheimer's Disease,
- ALS,
- Aphasia,
- Wheelchair-bound arthritis patients,
- Those with controlled cardiac abnormalities,
- Those who need assistance with walking combined with other assistance,
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD, independent or assisted function with oxygen use,
 - Cystic fibrosis patients who require medication and assistance with activities of daily living,
- Dementia,

- Diabetes/Hyperglycemia requiring assistance with insulin administration and monitoring,
- Emphysema and requiring oxygen,
- Foley catheters and requiring monitoring,
- Fractured bones with pin care/dressing changes,
- Hip or knee replacements of less than 6 months,
- Persons who use high-tech medical equipment such as G-tube, uncomplicated IV or central venous infusion sites (With home health or hospice attendant) healed tracheostomy site,
- Wheelchair-bound patients with multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, osteoarthritis/osteoporosis, neuromuscular disorders,
- Neurological deficits requiring monitoring or assistance with activities of daily living,
- Parkinson's Disease needing assistance with activities of daily living,
- Psychosis requiring an attendant,
- Persons with seizures requiring medication assistance,
- Persons with skin rashes with open sores, draining wounds, dressing changes;
- Upper respiratory infections requiring isolation,
- Wheelchair-bound patients with complicating conditions,
- Those with open draining wounds, requiring dressing changes and complicated treatments.

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