



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## JO DAVIESS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### Disaster planning to be aided by local special needs registry

Disasters can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Preparing for an emergency or disaster is part of taking responsibility for yourself and loved ones, maintaining your independence and assisting your community in becoming more resilient. Although many of the hazards that impact this area come with little to no warning, preparing now will help you take immediate protective actions at a moment's notice.

When an emergency situation threatens life, property or the environment, Jo Daviess County Emergency Management officials may elect to implement special instructions to the public such as sheltering-in-place or evacuation. Threats which may cause officials to take these types of action include the following:

1. Natural such as severe weather, flash flooding or epidemics
2. Technological such as utility failures, a hazardous material or radiation release
3. Human-caused such as hostage situations, civil disturbances or terrorism

The registry is completely voluntary for anyone living in Jo Daviess County. It was created to assist emergency management officials with anticipating resource needs before and during an incident and as needed to assist responders with planning and training activities.

The Special Needs Registry allows Jo Daviess County residents with access and functional needs and their families, friends and associates an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies such as Police, Fire, and EMS so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency.

The information collected is confidential and will not be available to the public. The information will be held securely and only used for emergency response and planning.

The first line of defense against the effects of a disaster is personal preparedness. During an emergency, the government and other agencies may not be able to meet your needs. It is important for all citizens to make their own emergency plans and prepare for their own care and safety in an emergency.

You are in the best position to plan for your own safety as you are best able to know your functional abilities and possible needs during and after an emergency or disaster situation. You can cope with disaster by preparing in advance with your family and care attendants.

Registration is easy: visit the county website at **[jodaviesscounty.org](http://jodaviesscounty.org)** and fill out or print the form, or visit the health department and ask for a form. After completing the form, return it to the health department so the registration process can be completed. We may periodically contact you to verify your information is still accurate.

If you have any questions, please contact the Jo Daviess County Health Department directly at 815-777-0263.