

# Special Needs Shelter Information

- ⇒ A Special Needs Shelter (SpNS) operated by the Florida Department of Health in Bay County (FDOH-Bay) is available for those who qualify during emergencies such as a hurricane.
- ⇒ The Registry is strictly voluntary, and its intent is to provide emergency responders with information pertinent to developing an effective response to emergency situations.
- ⇒ A SpNS is a temporary emergency facility designed for providing care to residents whose medical condition is such that it exceeds the capabilities of a General Population Shelter but is not severe enough to require hospitalization.
- ⇒ The Bay County SpNS should be considered a last option for persons with special health care needs. Spaces within the shelter are limited and the conditions will be uncomfortable.
- ⇒ The SpNS is a lifeboat, not a cruise ship.
- ⇒ Special Needs persons should consider remaining in their own home IF it is well constructed, not in a storm surge/flood zone and have family members, friends, or Home Health Care Agencies who can assist them during a community emergency.

## Special Needs Shelter Information:

- ⇒ Deane Bozeman School is the only approved SpNS in Bay County and is located at: 13410 Hwy 77, Panama City, FL 32409
- ⇒ Medical personnel, primarily nurses, are provided by FDOH-Bay
- ⇒ Each SpNS resident should be accompanied at the shelter with a caregiver or family member to provide the care needed.
- ⇒ Caregivers should bring needed supplies for themselves
- ⇒ As soon as the storm passes and conditions are safe for travel, SpNS occupants should be prepared to vacate the shelter.

## Registration:

- ⇒ FDOH-Bay, in coordination with Bay County Emergency Management, maintain a registry for persons with special needs to receive assistance during a disaster. The statewide registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters or other emergencies.
- ⇒ If a person is medically stable but needs help with basic tasks or uses an electronic medical device and has no other evacuation options, they should pre-register for a SpNS.

Pre-register at [www.snr.flhealthresponse.com](http://www.snr.flhealthresponse.com)



# Special Needs Shelter Information

## Eligibility Criteria include those:

- ⇒ Who are ambulatory, with or without assisting devices
- ⇒ Who require assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) or mobility
- ⇒ Who have sensory impairment that leads to endangerment of oneself or others in an unfamiliar environment

## Supply List: (not all inclusive)

- ⇒ Identification with photo and current address
- ⇒ Important papers such as insurance, doctor orders, prescriptions, etc.
- ⇒ Required medications and medical support equipment such as wheelchairs
- ⇒ Special dietary food needs and/or snacks
- ⇒ Pillows (beds and sheets will be provided as available)
- ⇒ Personal items (toothbrush/paste, deodorant, soap, towel & washcloth, medications, etc.)
- ⇒ Change of clothes (2 or 3 complete sets)
- ⇒ Two pair of comfortable shoes (not high heels)
- ⇒ Flashlight with working batteries
- ⇒ Antibacterial wipes or hand sanitizer
- ⇒ Sweater or light jacket (it can get cold in the shelter)
- ⇒ Books, games, cards, and other similar items for entertainment
- ⇒ Ear plugs (it can get noisy in the shelter)

## Additional Resources:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/spns-index.html>

