

EMERGENCY TIPS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

DATE COMPLETED	ACTIVITIES
_____	Store and maintain extra Batteries.
_____	Store Hearing Aids.
_____	Install both Audible Alarms and Visual Smoke Alarms.
_____	Prepare Written Communication for emergency personnel.

Batteries

- Store extra batteries for hearing aids and implants. If available, store an extra hearing aid with emergency supplies
- Maintain TTY batteries (consult manual).
- Store extra batteries for your TTY and light phone signaler. Check the manual for proper battery maintenance.

Hearing Aids

- Store hearing aid(s) in a strategic, consistent and secured location so they can be found and used after a quake.
- For example consider storing in a container by bedside which is attached to night stand or bed post using string or velcro. Missing or damaged hearing aids will be difficult to replace or fix immediately after a major disaster.

Alarms

- Install both audible alarms and visual smoke alarms. At least one should be battery operated.

Communication

- Determine how you will communicate with emergency personnel: if there is no interpreter; if you do not have your hearing aid(s). Store paper and pens.
- Consider carrying pre-printed copy of key phrase messages with you such as:
"I speak American Sign Language (ASL) and need an ASL interpreter,"
"I do not write or read English."
"If you make announcements, I will need to have them written or signed."
- If possible, obtain a battery operated television that has a decoder chip for access to signed or captioned emergency reports.
- Determine which broadcasting systems will be accessible in terms of continuous news that will be captioned and/or signed. Advocate so that television stations have a plan to secure emergency interpreters for on camera emergency duty.

Advocacy

- Recruit interpreters to be Red Cross emergency volunteers.
- Maintain pressure on TV stations to broadcast all news and emergency information in open caption format.
- Ensure hotels have access packets for deaf and hearing impaired persons, including audible alarms, when you travel. Ask for them when you check in.