Dane County
Disaster Assistance Voluntary Registry Program

You might want to apply to be on the Disaster Assistance Voluntary Registry if you or someone you care for would:

- Need outside help to safely leave your home during a disaster;
- Be in jeopardy if you had to stay in your home for three days, without assistance;
- Need special notification about the need for evacuation, due to impairment.

What is it?

The Disaster Assistance Voluntary Registry is a database containing information about individuals in Dane County who will require special assistance in the event of a disaster. Emergency planners and responders know that there are many people living in our communities who will need individual help to respond to a natural disaster or a homeland security situation. The registry is a way for you to voluntarily tell us where you live and what help you would need, before a disaster even occurs.

The program allows people who will need direct, personal assistance to voluntarily register their name, address, and emergency needs into a secure database. Your home address will also be marked on a map that is linked to the database. During an emergency or disaster, the registry will provide emergency responders with important information about people in the affected area who will need specialized help. The emergency responders will then use this information to develop a more effective response. The information from the database will also be used to assist emergency planners to develop policies and procedures to address community needs in the event of a disaster.

Situations where this information could be used include, but are not limited to:
- Regional flood
- Widespread, prolonged power outage
- Tornado or other severe weather causing significant damage
- Chemical release
- Other community-level emergencies

Registration in the system is purely voluntary. By registering, you agree to the release of your information, including protected health information:
- in the event of a disaster;
- for emergency planning purposes; and
- as needed to effectively maintain the system.

The information collected here will **only** be made available to disaster responders, disaster planners and persons who manage the information database. It will **not** be made available to the public or any agency or organization that is not involved in the disaster response or disaster planning.

Registration does not guarantee any particular emergency services or level of emergency services during a disaster. It will however enhance the ability of emergency management and local officials to meet the emergency needs of the community.

Who can register?

The system is intended to assist people who may need specialized assistance to evacuate in an emergency or disaster. This may include, but is not limited to:
- People with restricted mobility that may need help evacuating their residence.
- People with medical conditions requiring special equipment.
- People requiring life-support equipment that is dependent on electrical power.
- People with sensory disabilities needing emergency messages to be presented in an accessible format.
- People who need wheelchair accessible or other specialized transportation assistance.
- People with cognitive or developmental disabilities.

How will the information be used?

In the event of a disaster or the potential for a disaster, the information provided may be used to:
- Provide emergency managers and responders with maps and a listing of residents who have registered as needing specialized assistance during an evacuation.
- Assist emergency services responders to understand your situation and to provide emergency assistance.
- Assist emergency planners and those who manage the database.

The information you provide will help emergency planners make better pre-disaster plans. Personal identification and address information will be removed from the data used for planning purposes, leaving only the assistance needed categories. This information will then be used to develop better evacuation, transportation and sheltering plans for our communities.

The information you provide will not be:
- A substitute for calling 911 when you have an emergency.
- Shared with the general public.
- A guarantee of assistance.

Who maintains the registry?

Dane County Emergency Management will serve as the system administrator, maintaining the database and electronic mapping system. Emergency Management will receive assistance from the county's Information Management Division and Land Information Office in developing and maintaining the system.

Who will be able to see the information you provide to the Registry?

Dane County Emergency Management personnel will receive the registration requests and enter information into the computer-based maps and database. All paper copies will be kept secure in the Emergency Management office. Emergency Management will regularly print out maps and data reports to be kept in the County's 911 Center and the County Emergency Operations Center for rapid access in an emergency or disaster. In all cases, the printed reports and maps will be kept confidential and secure. The information will be shared by Dane County Emergency

Management with emergency responders in the event of a disaster. It will also be used by emergency planners.

Dane County Emergency Management will:
- Confirm that we have received your request to register.
- Provide information about preparing for emergencies.
- Contact you annually, requesting that you update your information.
- Purge outdated registrations.
- Share your information with authorized emergency responders in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- Remove your name from the Registry if you request in writing that we do so.

What else should you do?
Personal preparedness is everyone's responsibility. In a disaster, government and other agencies may not be able to meet all of your needs. It is important for all residents to make individual or family plans and preparations for their care and safety. This includes:
- Check out the Emergency Management page on the Dane County website for information on disaster planning.
- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.
- Create a family disaster plan.
- Make emergency arrangements with caregivers or health care providers.
- Make emergency arrangements for pets.
- Practice and maintain your plan.
- Keep your registration information current. Send us an update if your situation changes.
- Call 911 if you have an emergency, even if you are on the registry.
- Prepare an emergency supply kit.
- Make sure you have at least a three-day supply of your medications available.

Contact Dane County Emergency Management or visit these websites to learn more about how to prepare for emergencies:

- www.countyofdane.com/ems/
- www.redcross.org and click on 'Get Prepared'
- www.ready.gov