Helping Seniors and Individuals with Special Needs Prepare for Disasters

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The Trends in Aging
Baby Boomer Bust
Longevity: 40 year bonus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year (as of July 1)</th>
<th>Number of Persons 65+ (per million) 1900-2030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>21.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>22.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>31.2</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>40.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>54.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>77.3</td>
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</tbody>
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Life Expectancy – US at birth
- 1900 – 47.3 years
- 2003 – 77.6 years
- 2008 – 78.1 years

Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Rita
9/11

Emergency Situation Vulnerabilities
- Chronic conditions
- Inadequate nutrition
- Limited income
- Sensory disadvantages
- No transportation

Special Considerations
1. Reactions are unpredictable
2. High risk for agitation, wandering and catastrophic reactions
3. Effects may linger
4. Individuals with early stage can be overlooked

Be Prepared for Certain Behaviors
1. Hiding
2. Fighting
3. Pacing/Agitation
4. Refusal to leave
5. Wandering

Overview
- Identify seniors & individuals with special needs
- Identify city/county resources
- Share information with city/county resources
- Who will check on seniors?
- Help seniors be prepared
- Update information annually
- Test the plan
Identify Seniors and Individuals with Special Needs

- Create registry
  - Identify individuals that may need assistance
  - Identify specific needs

Disaster Registry

- Name
- Address
- Special Need(s)
  - Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
  - Consent Form

Identify Support System

- Phone Support
- In-person Support

Support Personnel Needs

1. Emergency contacts
   a. Family or Durable Power of Attorney
   b. Doctor
   c. Pharmacy
2. Special equipment and supplies
   a. Medication, Oxygen
   b. Walker, Wheelchair
3. Important documents
   a. Identification
   b. Insurance
4. Other items
   a. Cash
   b. Keys
   c. Portable safe

Support Personnel Duties

1. Evaluate the Senior’s home
   a. Practice vital activities
2. How will they Contact each other?
   a. Plan
   b. Signal
3. Equipment Check
   a. How does it operate? Move?
4. Have written instructions
5. Travel Itinerary

Help Seniors Get Prepared

- Make a disaster kit (Including equipment and supplies for special needs)
- Develop an emergency plan
- Have a way to stay connected

www.Ready.org
www.communityservices.org
Special items for seniors & disadvantaged

- Disability-related supplies & special equipment

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Develop an Emergency Plan

- Evacuation Plan of Home/Area or Shelter in Place
- Plan a Meeting Area
- Create a Communication Plan to Include: Family, Out-of-Town and Other Important Contacts and Caregivers
- Include Service Animals and Pets

Don’t Forget Service Animals & Pets

- Equipment
- Supplies
- Shelter
Stay Connected

- Radio
- Emergency Response Devices
- Cell/Satellite Phones

www.noaa.gov

Identify Public Resources

- Transportation Services
- Meal on Wheels
- Local fire or police department

Available Public Resources

- www.eldercarelocator.org
  - 1-800-677-1116
- Local Senior Centers
- County/City Emergency Managers
- Emergency Transportation Providers
- Local/regional VOAD/COAD
- American Red Cross – www.redcross.org

Make sure city/county agencies know location of seniors

Last but not Least

- Update information annually.
- Test the network.
- Do table top exercises.

Questions