

Special Needs Emergency Evacuation Registry for El Paso County Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **What is the Special Needs Population Emergency Evacuation Registry?**

The Emergency Evacuation Registry is a tool to help plan for evacuation in case of an emergency. The Registry is a database designed to help emergency workers to identify people who may not be able to evacuate without assistance during an emergency.

➤ **What area is covered by the Registry?**

The Registry covers all of El Paso County including the cities of Colorado Springs, Monument, Palmer Lake, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Fountain, Calhan, and Ramah, as well as the unincorporated areas of El Paso County.

➤ **Who is eligible for the Registry?**

The Registry is for El Paso County residents who have some type of condition or impairment that would limit their ability to safely evacuate their home.

The Registry may be for you if you answer yes to one or more of the following questions:
Mobility:

- I cannot walk or have difficulty walking.
- I need assistance to move between locations in my home or outside my home.
- I depend on equipment to help me get around (wheelchair, walker, cane, etc.).
- I am homebound or bedbound.

Medical Needs:

- I need assistance to move between locations because of a medical condition.
- I rely on medical equipment that must be transported with me.

Other needs:

- I become confused and would be unable to leave my home without assistance.
- I need assistance with activities for daily living (eating, toileting, medications etc.).
- I am frail.
- I am hearing or vision impaired.
- I have developmental disabilities or Alzheimer's/dementia.

➤ **I live in an assisted living facility. Should I register?**

Individuals living in one of the group facilities listed below do not need to register. Each facility has its own evacuation plan including assistance as-needed.

Group facilities include:

- Skilled nursing homes
- Assisted living facilities
- Hospice care facilities
- Group homes for citizens with developmental or physical disabilities

➤ **What kind of information is collected and how will it be used?**

The type of information collected includes your name, address, and telephone number, type of disability or impairment, and type of transportation or assistance you may require.

This information is being collected solely for use for evacuation planning and will be shared only with those agencies that may provide emergency evacuation services.

Also, with permission from each client, the information may be given to the Colorado Springs Police/Fire Departments and/or the El Paso County Communications Centers for use by first responders when responding to a call for service in which the home or client is involved.

➤ **Do HIPAA regulations apply?**

No, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act does not apply. You are voluntarily providing your information. Regardless, your information will be held confidential and only for use by emergency response agencies that may be called upon to provide evacuation services.

➤ **How do I keep the information current? What happens if I move?**

To ensure accurate information, your registration must be updated annually. This is very important: *If your information is not updated or confirmed every year, you will be dropped from the Special Needs Emergency Evacuation Registry.*

To update or confirm existing information, call 2-1-1 and let a Community Specialist know that you need to update your information.

A good way to remember is to update on your birthday every year. Of course, you can register or update a change at any time by calling 2-1-1.

It is important that YOU keep your information current. In an emergency the time wasted and risk involved in going to a residence to assist someone who is no longer a resident could cost lives. If you move, please call 2-1-1 and update your address.

➤ **My parents are elderly and not able to register themselves. May I do it for them?**

Family members or legal guardians may register individuals in the Registry. The information still needs to be updated annually as noted above.

➤ **I was severely injured recently and will be homebound for the next several months. Am I eligible to be temporarily included on the Special Needs Emergency Evacuation Registry?**

The Registry is for anyone who may need evacuation assistance, even for a short period of time. Once you no longer need the assistance, please call 2-1-1 to have your name removed from the Registry.

➤ **More than one person in my household will require assistance. Does each person need to register?**

Yes, each individual needs to register independently. This is to ensure that everyone that will need assistance is registered with their specific needs to provide appropriate evacuation resources.

➤ **If I need to be evacuated, who will come to get me?**

Each municipality will attempt to provide evacuation support but this is not a guarantee. Please contact your police chief, fire chief, or your local office of emergency management for more information. For residents that require specialized care during transport, an ambulance, if possible, will be coordinated for your evacuation.

➤ **If I am evacuated where will I be taken?**

You will be taken to the nearest shelter or shelter designated by the local office of emergency management. If you have a condition that cannot be supported at a shelter you will be taken to a hospital or medical facility that can support your special needs.

➤ **What should I do to prepare for an emergency or evacuation?**

Local offices of emergency management have emergency and evacuation planning guides. Call the City of Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management at 385-5957 or visit their website at www.springsgov.com for additional information.

➤ **How do I contact 2-1-1?**

Dial 2-1-1 or for alternate access dial 719-955-0742 or 866-488-9742. 2-1-1 is sponsored by the Pikes Peak United Way. Visit www.ppunitedway.org.