

Evacuation Tips for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs

Recommendation

Use the resources below to educate your community members with mobility disabilities and those with access and functional needs about evacuating their buildings and neighborhood in case of a coastal storm or fire.

General Evacuation Tips

- Make a plan for how you will evacuate your building and neighborhood.
- Build a support network of family, friends, and neighbors who can assist you.
- Bring medication, communication, mobility or any other devices and supplies specific to your disability.
- Make a plan in case elevators are out of service and are not available.
- For fires, determine if your [building is fireproof](#) and understand whether you should evacuate or shelter in place.
- Make sure that you have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Coastal Storm Evacuation Tips

- [Know Your Zone](#) – find out ahead of time if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone.
- During a coastal storm, New Yorkers are encouraged to stay with family and friends outside the evacuation zones when a mandatory evacuation is ordered.
- New Yorkers can go to their nearest evacuation center where trained staff will refer them to the appropriate shelter usually located in a nearby public school.
- For transportation during coastal storm evacuation, people should use public transportation if possible, such as the MTA subway and bus system or [Access-A-Ride](#).
- When the Mayor issues a mandatory evacuation, people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, who need assistance evacuating, can request transportation assistance through the Homebound Evacuation Operation by calling 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115). Depending on their individual needs, the person will be taken to:
 - A hospital via an ambulance; OR
 - An accessible coastal storm evacuation center in an accessible vehicle.
 - Note: people receiving assistance evacuating will not be able to request transportation to a specific address.

Additional Information

- Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder at [NYC.gov/knowyourzone](https://www1.nyc.gov/knowyourzone) or call 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115).
- www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/resources/how-to-prepare.page
- www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/get-prepared.page
- www.fdnysmart.org/
- www.redcross.org/local/new-york/greater-new-york/home-fire-safety