



Developed by the  
Independent Living  
Resource Center,  
San Francisco,  
California

WASHINGTON  
MILITARY  
DEPARTMENT



EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION

OFFICE LOCATION  
Building 20  
Camp Murray, WA

MAILING ADDRESS  
Building 20, MS: TA-20  
Camp Murray, WA  
98430-5122

# Disaster Tips for People With Visual Disabilities

The more you prepare for earthquake or other disaster the more you will be able to protect yourself, your family, and your belongings.

## Canes

- If you use a cane, keep extras in strategic, consistent and secured locations at work, home, school, volunteer site, etc., to help you maneuver around obstacles and hazards.
- Keep a spare cane in your emergency kit.

## Alternate Mobility Cues

- If you have some vision, place security lights in each room to light paths of travel. These lights plug into electric wall outlets and light up automatically if there is a loss of power. They will, depending on type, continue to operate automatically for 1 to 6 hours and can be turned off manually and used as a short-lasting flashlight.
- Store high-powered flashlights with wide beams and extra batteries.
- If you wear soft contact lenses, plan to have an alternative because you will not be able to operate the cleaning unit without power.
- Plan for losing the auditory clues you usually rely on after a major quake.
- Service animals may become confused, panicked, frightened or disoriented during and after a disaster. Keep them confined or securely leashed or harnessed. A leash/harness is an important item for managing a nervous or upset animal. Be prepared to use alternative ways to negotiate your environment.

## Label Supplies

- If helpful, mark emergency supplies with large print, florescent tape or Braille.

## Secure Computers

- Anchor special equipment and large pieces of furniture, such as computers and shelving. Create a computer back-up system for important data and store it off site.

## Advocacy Issues

- Advocate that TV news not only post important phone numbers, but also announce them slowly and repeat them frequently for people who cannot read the screen.