



Helping Those Who Need Extra Assistance in an Emergency

Safety Sabbath® helps all members of your church be ready for emergencies. Some members may need more help in an emergency situation than others because of limited mobility due to age, physical condition, disabilities, medical conditions, or functional limitations. Here are some ways you can help those who may need extra assistance.

Plan for those who need extra assistance

As part of your emergency planning, evaluate the needs of your church, and identify any regular members and the likelihood of potential guests who will need additional assistance in an emergency situation. Do you have members or guests who are:

- parents or single parents with young or special needs children?
- use canes, walkers, or wheelchairs?
- elderly with limited mobility?
- visually, hearing, or cognitively impaired?
- physically limited or disabled?
- dependent on medical equipment?

Include in your emergency plan how you will assist these individuals in an emergency. Some questions to consider are:

- How will you communicate that an emergency is in progress, what needs to happen, and when the crisis is over?

- Are your emergency alert systems understood by all?
- If the plan is to evacuate, how will these members and guests do so?
- Is your facility able to accommodate evacuation for those with limited mobility?
- Are your evacuation routes and meetup locations accessible?
- If the plan is to shelter-in-place, what accommodations will these members need, and how will you supply them?
- How many team members should be assigned each week to assist these members, and what training do they need?

Practice with those who need extra assistance

Once you have developed a plan for how to assist those who need additional help, practice with your team first. Then run a practice drill with your members. Share with your members that your church takes their safety seriously and wants to be able to help them be as safe as possible when emergencies happen. Remember to



exercise extra caution and patience with the members you are here to serve.

Safety Sabbath is an excellent opportunity to practice a safety drill with Adventist churches across the North American Division. Go to SafetySabbath.org to learn more and get free resources for holding your own safety drill.

After you have completed a practice drill, include how the training went for members needing extra assistance in your drill evaluation with your team. Go over what went well and what could have gone better. Update your plan and allocate additional resources to this area as needed.



Find more detailed information on how to run a safety drill for your church, and emergency preparedness safety resources for sharing with children and parents at SafetySabbath.com.

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