People with medical needs have extra disaster planning to do, some have to relocate to a special needs shelter in the event of an emergency. A medical needs shelter is a place of last resort, so it’s important for those who require special care to have a plan. Here are some important tips to share with those who have special medical needs and their caregivers:

1. Remind people to create an escape route that they will be able to use in case of an emergency and to keep a copy in their homes.

2. Remind them that it’s important to know who to call to help them evacuate.

3. They should make emergency transportation arrangements now, before disaster strikes either with family, friends or local emergency management agency.

4. It’s important to remind people that if possible, they should bring a caregiver with them to the shelter.

It’s also important to remind them to keep an emergency supply kit with the following in it:

1. Identification and other important information.

2. Food that does not require refrigeration, water, and any special dietary supplies; a first aid kit, daily medications, and extra glasses if needed.

3. Remember to include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries, including hearing aid batteries. Your kit should contain enough supplies for at least 10 days and should be kept in a place where all family members can find it.

4. Finally, a change of clothing, bed clothes and slippers, and any personal hygiene items.

Taking a few extra steps can help assure everyone’s safety during a disaster. Remember, being prepared now could save you hours of trouble in the future.

For more information, visit our Web site: www.SouthCentralPartnership.org