

Highly Suggested Items for Emergency Preparedness

For Group Homes & Personal Care Homes

Suggestions for emergency planning:

- Contact the Fire Department to bring awareness to the facility. There is an opportunity to conduct pre-planning for the residence to ensure the safety of residents, staff and first responders who will attend the
- Fill out the Special Needs Registry for residents in the facility, hosted by the Emergency Management Coordinator for East Petersburg Borough.
- Take the time to review the highly suggested items list

Life-Safety & Fire Protection Equipment

- Fire extinguishers (properly mounted and inspected)
- Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Fire blankets (optional but recommended)
- Emergency lighting and backup flashlights
- Glow-in-the-dark or illuminated exit signs
- Evacuation route maps posted in common areas
- Door wedges or magnetic holds for quick evacuation (if permitted by fire code)
- Fire-resistant lockboxes for critical documents

Emergency Communication Tools

- Battery-powered or hand-crank emergency radio
- Backup cell phone or dedicated emergency phone
- Portable chargers/power banks
- Printed emergency contact lists (residents, staff, families, vendors, emergency services)
- Laminated quick-reference emergency procedure cards for staff

Medical & Resident-Support Supplies

(General safety items — not medical treatment guidance)

- First-aid kits stocked to OSHA-recommended levels
- Non-latex gloves, masks, and basic PPE
- Flashlights for resident rooms (especially for those with cognitive impairment)
- Extra batteries for hearing aids, flashlights, and medical devices
- Manual blood pressure cuff and stethoscope (for emergency monitoring by trained personnel)
- Backup thermometers
- Extra blankets and warming supplies
- Cooling packs or fans for heat emergencies
- Spare mobility aids (walkers, canes, wheelchair repair kits)

Shelter-in-Place Supplies

- Minimum 72-hour supply of bottled water per person
- Non-perishable food items and a manual can opener
- Disposable plates, utensils, and cups
- Emergency blankets and sleeping mats
- Portable lanterns and long-lasting batteries

- Sanitation supplies (wipes, trash bags, paper towels)
- Portable toilet or commode liners (for extended outages)
- Extra hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, feminine products)

Power & Utility Backup Items

- Generator (if feasible) with fuel storage plan
- Heavy-duty extension cords rated for emergency use
- Surge protectors
- Battery-powered fans or heaters (depending on climate and safety rules)
- Water shutoff tools
- Flashlights and lanterns for every common area and hallway
- Backup refrigeration options for temperature-sensitive items (if allowed)

Environmental & Facility Safety Items

- Non-slip mats for bathrooms and entryways
- Sand or ice melt for winter safety
- Door alarms or wander-prevention devices (for at-risk residents)
- Lockable cabinets for hazardous materials
- Spill-control kits
- Air purifiers (for smoke or poor air quality events)
- Thermometers for refrigerators and freezers
- Fans or portable air circulators for ventilation issues

Documentation & Administrative Materials

- Hard-copy binders of emergency plans
- Resident emergency information packets
- Staff rosters and emergency role assignments
- Vendor and utility contact lists
- Paper forms for incident reporting and resident tracking
- Waterproof document sleeves

Questions regarding this checklist can be directed to Violet De Stefano, Emergency Management Director of East Petersburg Borough by contacting the Borough Office.