What is the Special Needs Registry?

The Special Needs Registry is a way for the Department of Emergency Services to receive information about residents who have special needs that would be helpful for emergency responders to know.

How will the Special Needs Registry be used?

The information will be programmed to appear on the 9-1-1 Operator’s screen when an emergency call is made from your home. This will allow dispatchers to alert emergency responders that there may be a unique situation in your home involving a person with special needs. It will also be used for the purpose of emergency planning.

Who is eligible for the Special Needs Registry?

Any Allegheny County resident who may require additional assistance due to special needs during a police, fire or medical emergency may submit information to the registry. In the event that the person with special needs is unable to submit the information on their own, a person who is authorized to act on their behalf may do so (guardian, power of attorney, etc.).
The 2012 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that there are 159,027 people who have some type of disability living in Allegheny County. In order to better serve these residents, the Department of Emergency Services has developed a Special Needs Registry which allows them to provide voluntary information that would be helpful for emergency responders to know when responding to a call.

Any county resident who requires additional assistance due to special needs during a police, fire or medical emergency may submit information to the registry. This includes any physical or mental disability that would keep an individual from leaving the home quickly in the event of an emergency, should submit information. This may include individuals with autism and those who are deaf or blind.

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What special needs should be submitted to the Registry?

Any physical, mental, sensory or intellectual disability that would keep an individual from leaving the home quickly in the event of an emergency, should submit information. This may include individuals with autism and those who are deaf or blind.

I live in an independent living facility, do I need to register?

No. The registry is only intended for use by those who do not live in a residential special needs facility (i.e. nursing home or hospital).

Will my information be kept confidential?

The information provided through the registry will be shared with local, county, state and federal agencies for the purposes of emergency planning or emergency response. The County will make every effort to respect privacy and confidentiality while providing for the needs of the people involved.

Is participation in the Special Needs Registry voluntary?

Yes. Your submission of an application is your voluntary request to be included.