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**KANSANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS URGED TO REGISTER WITH VULNERABLE
NEEDS PLANNING SYSTEM**

With the potential for floods looming in some areas of the state, particularly along the Missouri River, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management is urging residents who have special needs to call 2-1-1 and register with the Vulnerable Needs Planning System or go online to register: <http://www.helpmekansas.org>. Registration is free.

The planning tool is intended to assist emergency management professionals and volunteers to better meet the needs of the vulnerable people in their community in times of disaster. It

provides the basis for improved coordination and emergency management planning in helping people with vulnerable needs and the facilities that serve them. *Registering does not guarantee services and should not take the place of personal preparation.*

“If you or someone you know has a special need, perhaps mobility issues, oxygen usage or communication difficulties, please take advantage of this system to ensure emergency personnel are aware of your situation,” said Maj. Gen. (KS) Lee Tafanelli, the adjutant general and director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. “The information you voluntarily give will allow local emergency management officials to know where you are and what you require.”

The Kansas Vulnerable Needs Planning System is an Internet-based database. The Website, <http://www.helpmekansas.org>, has registries for individuals, volunteers and facilities.

The "Individual Registry" is developed for individuals with vulnerable needs to provide information to emergency response agencies. The sole use of this information will be to assist emergency management to plan before, during and after a disaster for possible needs of these individuals. Registration for this voluntary service is also available by calling 2-1-1.

The "Volunteer Registry" is an effort administered by Kansas Department of Health and Environment titled the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV). K-SERV is a state-wide, secure registration system and database for volunteers willing to respond to incidents. The aim is to have a list of pre-identified volunteers who are available for ready deployment in case of a disaster or incident.

The "Facility Registry" form is designed to register facilities serving people with vulnerable needs while at the same time collecting resources they may offer in an emergency. The information gathered will help local emergency response agencies plan for vulnerable needs residents in the event of disaster.

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