

# Tribal Housing and Shelter Emergency Planning

Indigenous people have endured natural disasters, forced evacuations, exposure to hazardous materials, injuries, and illnesses throughout colonization. Therefore, when creating or updating your emergency procedures, it is critical to build in culturally specific responses that take into consideration the historical, intergenerational, and personal trauma that a survivor has experienced. Your procedures should include guidance on practicing drills, action steps to take during emergencies, and follow up services offered afterwards.

The following graphic provides an example of how culturally specific Comfort Kits can be combined with evacuation supplies.

## Mental

- Resource packets
  - For all ages and abilities
- Access to technology for:
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Court / justice system
  - Advocacy
- Engagement opportunities
  - Volunteering
  - "Phone Tree" notifications
  - Peer advocacy
  - Elder and youth groups

## Spiritual

- Sacred medicines, such as:
  - Water
  - Cedar, Sage, Sweetgrass
  - Tobacco
  - Angelica Root
  - Pollen
- Smudging supplies
  - Including water-proof matches
- Transportation to spiritual leaders
- Access to Ceremonies

## Emotional

- Cell phones and chargers
- Virtual access or transportation to mental health
- Medications
- Self Care practices
- Emotional safety plan
- Prevention of social isolation
- Grounding Techniques
  - 5 senses
  - Worry Stones
- Horse and art therapy
- Massages / acupuncture / saunas

## Physical

- Evacuation maps
  - Age appropriate maps for children
- First Aid
- Basic necessities
  - Food
  - Water
  - Clothing
  - Shelter
- Medications
- Hygiene and cleaning items
- Exercise options



This project is supported by Grant No. 2015-TA-AX-K069 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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## Additional Emergency Considerations

You will need to plan ahead for Comfort Kits and evacuation supplies that meet the unique needs of survivors. There will be supplies that you can keep in storage areas, supplies that partner agencies can provide, and supplies that survivors will secure to bring with them.

Below are examples to help you start brainstorming options and looking for supply and planning gaps.



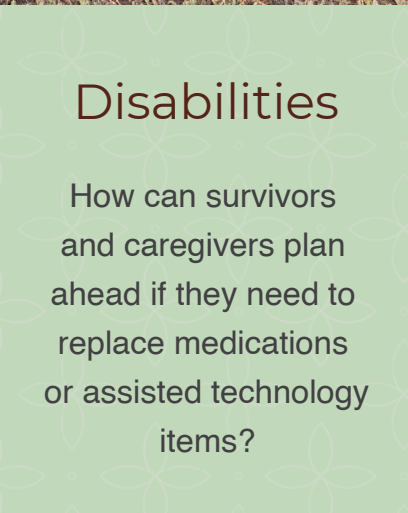
### Male Survivors

If your shelter is evacuated, will male survivors be able to stay at other shelters?



### Children

How can survivors access baby formula, bottles, diapers, stuffed animals, and toys for their children?



### Disabilities

How can survivors and caregivers plan ahead if they need to replace medications or assisted technology items?



### LGBT+ Two Spirit

How can survivors plan ahead for special needs such as extra razors, chest binders, and hormones?



## What is your role before, during, and after crisis and emergency?

- Assist with safety planning and explaining options
- Communicate clearly and honestly
- Support and advocate
- Provide calm expertise and assist with the process
- Ensure confidentiality
- Mobilize community members and volunteers
- Find and assist with accessing resources
- Give realistic information and prevent overload
- Practice safety drills
- Build partnerships to fill gaps
- Practice self care to avoid burnout
- Participate in trainings to implement best practices into your policies and procedures



**Survivors need to know:** safety options, who and what is involved in the emergency plan, how confidentiality will be maintained, and what to expect during each step.